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Miyazawa: G-7 Communique To Stop Forex 'Volatility'

OW3004105293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday [30 April] that Thursday's [29 April] communique of Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers and central bankers will put an end to foreign exchange volatility. Miyazawa made the remarks at a press conference following a meeting in Canberra with his Australian Counterpart Paul Keating. G-7 finance ministers and central bankers meeting earlier in Washington agreed to cooperate in foreign exchange markets to attain stability and take a coordinated stance to achieve sustainale growth.

During a two-hour meeting with Keating at the federal parliament, Miyazawa said the yen should settle at around 111 to the dollar and expressed confidence that the G-7 communique, issued in Washington on Thursday, would stop the yen's fluctuations, according to an Australian official. Trade issues dominated the talks between the two leaders who increasingly find themselves lobbying for similar global trade policies. Similar interests of Australia and Japan led the Australian media to speculate heavily upon the possibility that Keating would take Japan's side in its uphill negotiations with the United States. But Keating told Miyazawa that the U.S. had been active in promoting free trade in the past and stalling a conclusion to the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks might lead the U.S. to "bad habits," according to the Australian official.

The two leaders did, however, agree to oppose a U.S. proposal to set numerical targets by sector in bilateral trade, Japanese officials said. Miyazawa said the proposal to set numerical targets goes against the interests of third parties, and Keating agreed, the officials said. Keating was quoted as saying it is necessary to solve trade issues within the context of an early conclusion of the Uruguay round talks. Miyazawa also told reporters at the press conference that the U.S. would not attempt to impose "managed trade" upon Japan. Keating urged Miyazawa to take the initiative in promoting Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum at the July G-7 summit in Tokyo on July 7-9, according to the Australian officials. Keating said APEC is the ideal forum for economic consultation in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC was initiated by Australia in 1989 when Keating was treasurer under former Prime Minister Bob Hawke. Keating told Miyazawa that contributing new ideas on free trade, along with speeding a conclusion to the Uruguay round would encourage the U.S. to pursue free trade by providing a new philosophical backdrop. Miyazawa promised to expedite trade but said the government had not changed its position on the banning of rice imports. He told Keating that rice was the "achilles heel" of the Japanese Government, the Australian officials said. Miyazawa told the press conference that the so-called Dunkel paper, compiled by the director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), did not acknowledge the fact that exporters subsidize rice, while Japan is being asked to stop subsidies to its farmers.

Meanwhile, in another forum, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans outlined the reason why Australia could not take sides in trade negotiations between Japan and the U.S. interviewed on ABC radio, he said that the U.S. proposal for "managed trade" was unacceptable to Australia, and that, "to the extent that the Japanese reject that we'll be supporting them and saying so quite explicitly." But he went on to say, "there is a larger issue involved here about countries' genuine commitment to opening access... to removing quotas and tariff barriers and so on, and to the extent that Japan is dragging its heels on that front, then we'll be very much supporting the U.S. side." As for noneconomic issues, Miyazawa told the press that Japan would keep its peacekeeping forces in Cambodia. "The framework for peace has not unravelled as yet," he said through an interpreter. "The May 23 (to 28) election must be conducted in a fair and neutral manner (and so) Japan has no intention of withdrawing its defense forces in the midst of this process," he added. Miyazawa is to lay a wreath at the national war memorial before he leaves Australia Saturday [1 May] for New Zealand.

ADB To Admit 6 Ex-Soviet Republics as Members

OW2904113593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Manila, April 29 KYODO—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will admit six former Soviet republics in Central Asia as new members this year, ADB President Kimimasa Tarumizu said Thursday [29 April].

"The bank's member countries have agreed informally to admit (the six countries) and I think there's no more problem arranging it under dual membership with the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)," Tarumizu told KYODO NEWS SERVICE. He said that of the six, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have the least trouble fulfilling conditions for membership, which will be discussed at the bank's 26th annual meeting in Manila next week. The Manila-based institution, however, agreed in a meeting with representatives from the applicant countries in Islamabad earlier this month to grant observer status to Azerbaijian, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. "There still remain some obstacles, such as civil war, barring the applications" of the remaining four countries, Tarumizu said. Still, the bank did not delay the membership process despite disagreements with the EBRD on a demarcation of responsibilities between the two banks' operations in the area. Once the bank's board of governors formally approves a resolution on the issue, the former Soviet republics only need to complete certain legal formalities and pay initial capital subscription to conclude the process by mid-summer this year.

The ADB said Iran, another candidate for membership, also has been started on the normal process after being informed of its eligibility.

Japan

Reaction to Statement Issued by G-7 Officials

Government Welcomes Statement

OW3004035193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Japan welcomed Friday [30 April] a statement from Group of Seven (G-7) top finance officials stressing the need for currency stability.

"It's one that Japan can be satisfied with," a Japanese Government source told reporters after the G7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs wrapped up a five-hour meeting in Washington on Thursday with the statement.

The statement said that the G-7 officials "agreed that exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals and that excessive volatility is undesirable."

The Japanese Government source said the G-7 statement should help guide the yen-dollar rate "in the right direction" as the yen has soared to record highs against the dollar in recent weeks.

But the source reacted calmly to the G-7 statement's implicit reference to the need for Japan to take action to slash its massive trade surplus.

"I believe what we need to do is what we have done so far," the source said.

The G-7 statement said that "a broad range of structural reforms, reflecting the different circumstanes in each country" is required to strengthen the long-term growth potential in the G-7 countries and to bring down unemployment rates.

Ozaki Praises Statement

OW3004100893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Mamoru Ozaki welcomed Friday [30 April] a statement by the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations pledging cooperation to stabilize the foreign exchange market.

The statement is welcome as it reaffirms policy coordination among the seven nations, especially the idea that exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals of respective nations, he said.

Ozaki predicted stable foreign exchange movements in the future.

As for Japan's economic stimulus package, Ozaki said the statement endorsed the government's macroeconomic policy, adding that Japan has done all it can to expand domestic demand.

Official: G-7 Policy 'Unchanged'

OW3004040593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—A statement by the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations' finance officials issued in Washington on Thursday [29 April] confirms the group's policies remain unchanged, a top Japanese Finance Ministry official said Friday.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the statement repeated points which the G-7 nations had previously agreed.

The communique said the G-7 officials "agreed that exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals and that excessive volatility is undesirable."

While noting it implicitly called for action to correct the trade imbalance, the official discounted widespread speculation that the G-7's call for "structural reforms' was intended only for Japan.

He said it applied to all G-7 countries.

The statement said, "A broad range of structural reforms, reflecting the different circumstances in each country," is required to strengthen the long-term growth potential in the G-7 countries and bring down unemployment rates.

Business Community Applauds Statement

OW3004042893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Japan's business community, shaken by the yen's recent surge to record highs against the dollar, applauded Friday [30 April] a statement from top Group of Seven (G-7) finance officials on the need for currency stability.

In the communique issued after a meeting in Washington on Thursday, the G-7 finance ministers and central bankers said excessive volatility in exchange rates is "undesirable" and reaffirmed their cooperation for noninflationary growth.

"It's welcome that (policy) coordination by each country has been reaffirmed," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Rokuro Ishikata, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called the statement's reference to the need for currency stability "timely" as Japanese business leaders have been worried about negative effects of the yen's advance in recent weeks.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), also gave high marks to the position on exchange rates.

"It shows, in particular, the United States has acknowledged adverse effects" of the yen's sharp appreciation on the global economy, he said.

In response to the statement's implicit reference to the need for Japan to take measures to reduce its huge (?surplus) Hiraiwa and Hayami called for expanding domestic demand and relaxing regulations to help boost imports.

"It's important to make more efforts to expand domestic demand and ease regulations," Hiraiwa said.

Hayami said, "Reforms of the distribution system and relaxation of regulations are desirable to make it possible that foreign-exchange gains from the stronger yen can be passed onto consumers."

Economists Expect More Foreign Pressure

OW3004050393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—The statement issued by finance chiefs of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries will help stabilize the yen, Japanese economists said Friday [30 April].

But they predicted an increase in foreign pressure on Japan following the G-7 meeting in Washington on Thursday to reduce its huge trade surplus by boosting domestic demand and ensuring wider market access for imports.

"The United States declared a cease-fire on the yen's recent upsurge, triggered by comments by U.S. leaders, in a move to wait and see what action Japan will take on domestic demand and market access before the G-7 summit in Tokyo in July," said Masayuki Kichikawa, an economist at Nomura Research Institute.

Many economists said the joint statement issued after the meeting will stop the yen's sharp rise, although it did not refer to the yen directly.

The statement said exchange rates "should reflect economic fundamentals" and that "excessive volatility is undesirable."

But its reaffirmation of a "continued commitment to close cooperation in exchange markets" should result in the yen finding its ceiling at around 110 yen against the dollar, said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at the Fuji Research Institute.

He predicted a range of "110 yen to 115 yen for the time being, with concerns over the yen's advance to as high as 100 yen to 105 yen receding."

Takagi and many other economists agree, however, that a lot depends on the Japanese Government's efforts to further expand domestic demand and market access, pointing to the repeated reference in the statement to the need for "structural reforms" and "noninflationary growth."

"The United States will step up its pressure on Japan, urging tangible programs," said Atsushi Miyawaki, chief economist at Japan Research Institute.

In particular, it will press Japan to speed up its traditionally slow legislative process to put into effect a supplementary budget and other measures to be submitted to the Diet next month.

Nomura's Kichikawa said on [word indistinct] the United States intends to focus on structural reforms in line with a new joint body agreed at the latest U.S.-Japan summit to discuss impediments of the two nations' key industries."

He said the G-7 financial leaders saw further instability in exchange rates as a drag on their own economies.

For the United States, the dollar's further fall might lead to rising inflation and higher interest rates, hindering President Bill Clinton's policy of facilitating capital investment.

With the U.S. economy not recovering as strongly as expected, and European economies remaining in a slump, concerns persist over wild fluctuations in their own currencies in reaction to the recent moves now limited to the yen, Kichikawa said.

Even so, the joint statement failed to directly touch on the yen's advance "apparently because the European side, primarily Germany, resisted strongly on concerns that increased exports from Japan would further raise unemployment in the flagging economy."

In these circumstances, many economists said, other G-7 members want Japan to make further efforts to boost imports by spurring domestic demand and widening market access.

'News Focus' Assesses G-7 Agreement

OW3004054193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0510 GMT 30 Apr 93

["New Focus" by Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Washington, April 29 KYODO—Japan expressed relief after the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations agreed Thursday [29 April] that the currency exchange market needs stabilizing but now its concern must turn to its trade surplus with an eye on the July Tokyo summit.

Since the yen began to surge against the U.S. dollar in early February, Tokyo finance and monetary officials repeatedly said they were in contact with other G-7 members and would take "appropriate measures" to stabilize the dollar-yen trading.

But in spite of such bullish remarks by the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan [BOJ], the dollar plunged over 10 percent in three months, hitting a record low at the 109 yen level at one point.

The government, although acknowledging the yen's appreciation in the longer term would contribute to easing Japan's mounting trade surplus, was worried that

too fast a rise of the yen could cripple the nation's economic recovery since it would reduce the profitability of exporting industries.

The lonely battle of the Japanese financial authorities came to an end earlier this week when U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen for the first time clearly expressed concern over excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market.

It was followed by an agreement reached by G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington on Thursday to cooperate in foreign exchange markets to attain stability.

Economists say the time has come for the dollar to find its bedrock levels and further appreciation of the yen may not take place for a while.

The G-7 communique, however, made clear that G-7 nations were concerned not only about stability in the foreign exchange markets but also about trade imbalances.

"Further opening up of the international trading system is indispensable for maximizing world growth," it said.

Achieving stronger growth was one of the key words of the latest G-7 meeting as the European economies remain slow and recovery in the United States seems uncertain.

On Thursday, data showed that first-quarter gross doastic product in the U.S. grew only a real 1.8 percent on annualized terms, falling from 4.7 percent in the last three months of 1992.

Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno both told a press conference that the reading on the communique was not addressed to Japan in particular and was referring to general cases.

But U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said at a separate press meeting that Japan's "large trade surplus remains a drag on growth," and that the 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package Japan announced earlier this month is only the "first step."

"Japan has to make a continuing effort to increase demand," he added.

Hayashi said after the G-7 meeting that there will be no change in Japan's fiscal policy. He said signs of economic recuperation are appearing but present conditions still remain unstable.

Mieno said the Bank of Japan will continue monitoring effects of the cut in the official discount rate to its present low of 2.5 percent, in addition to fiscal stimulus measures already announced.

Yozo Nishimura, an economist at the Bank of Tokyo, said it is logical for the U.S. to turn its attention back to structural aspects to find ways of easing its trade deficit with Japan.

He said Washington is not so naive as to think the deficit can be removed just through the exchange rate or by driving up the yen.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States came to 49 billion dollars in 1992, while its total surplus was 130 billion dollars.

But Nishimura questioned whether such political pressure will effectively improve the Japan-U.S. trade imbalance and said the U.S. should put more emphasis [on] the competitiveness of its industry.

"Japan is exporting a lot of capital goods to the U.S., while shipments from the U.S. are things like soy beans," Nishimura said, pointing to the need for America to become more competitive in exporting value-added goods.

In any case, he said, under market economies it is not easy to accomplish targets through policy-making.

Nevertheless, trade issues are expected to gain more of the spotlight in international debates on macroeconomics.

Media reports in Tokyo said the Japanese Government is considering holding a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Japan before the G-7 summit in Tokyo in July in hopes of breaking the impasse in the long-stalled Uruguay Round of trade talks.

A four-way meeting of trade ministers from Canada, the European Community, Japan and the United States is due in Toronto in May.

Economists say Japan must make further efforts to liberalize its distribution system so that not only foreign companies but also Japanese companies can compete on an equal footing.

Substantial deregulation is needed, they say, and not just a boost in imports as part of an economic stimulation program.

'Sources': U.S. Trade Report May Trigger Sanctions

OW3004144893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1438 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—The United States will release a trade report calling Japan's public works projects exclusionary to foreign participation, which may trigger punitive action from Washington, Japanese Government sources said Friday [30 April].

In the report, to be released at 2 A.M. Saturday JST [Japanese standard time] [1700 GMT], the office of the U.S. Trade Representative will also cite Japanese Government procurements of foreign computers, supercomputers and telecommunications equipment as fields

which have not shown promised progress. The report will demand that further monitoring of such trade be maintained.

The report said the Japanese Government discriminates against foreign competitors in awarding public works and that the action justifies U.S. sanctions under a 1988 bilateral construction agreement.

The U.S. intends to limit the period for negotiations on the matter to 60 days and is expected to take action—such as prohibiting participation of Japanese contractors in the U.S. market—unless bilateral talks produce satisfactory results, the sources said.

Japan's construction market has been a thorny issue between the two governments for several years, with the U.S. accusing Japan of rigging bids and excluding foreign participation.

The two countries signed a bilateral accord in 1988, known as the major projects arrangement, in which Japan pledged to allow more foreign bidding in public works projects. The pact has been renewed yearly.

But a recent political scandal in Japan has provided Washington with a new powerful weapon to pry open the nation's market.

Recent reports have disclosed that major Japanese contractors made huge payoffs to former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru to garner his influence in winning bids on public works contracts.

Hokkaido Urges Russia To Stop Dumping Nuclear Waste

OW2704061093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Sapporo, April 27 KYODO—The Hokkaido Prefectural Government Tuesday [27 April] urged Russia to stop immediately the dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan, prefectural officials said.

The written request, sent to the Russian ambassador in Japan, the Science and Technology Agency and several ministries, also calls for a study of the impact on the maritime environment and the publication of its findings.

It also demands that Russia sets up facilities to dispose of nuclear waste.

In early April, the international environmental organization Greenpeace cited a Russian Government report that the former Soviet Navy had been dumping radioactive material in the seas since 1959.

Two nuclear reactors were reportedly dumped in the Sea of Japan about 700 kilometers north of Fukuoka in 193 and 16 others in the Kara and Barents Seas from 1966 to 1991.

Russian Ambassador Lyudvig Chizhov said Tuesday the Russian Government "thinks seriously" about the matter and is designing a government-supervised program to reduce and eventually halt dumping of radioactive wastes at sea.

The ambassador did not elaborate on when the total ban will be realized, but called for financial and technological support from Japan and other industrialized nations.

Chizhov made the remarks in talks with Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), in response to a protest note Yamahana sent Russian President Boris Yeltsin on April 9, calling for an improvement of the situation.

Chizhov said Russia acknowledged that the nuclear waste dumping violated the London convention on sea noncontamination and is willing to put an end to breaching international law.

Earlier this month, Fukui Prefecture and a league of 12 prefectures on the Sea of Japan likewise called on Russia to end nuclear waste dumping.

Annual Working Hours Fall Below 2,000 in 1992

OW3004075893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Annual working hours per employee at Japanese firms with 30 workers or more in fiscal 1992 decreased 2.7 percent or 51 hours from the year before to 1,957, falling below 2,000 hours for the first time, the Labor Ministry said Friday [30 April].

In a monthly report on working conditions, the ministry said the decrease was largely because of less overtime as a result of the economic slowdown.

The 1992 figures consisted of an average 1,813 regular hours, down 25 hours from the previous year, and 144 overtime hours, down 26 hours, the ministry said.

Working hours for the manufacturing sector stood at 1,999, falling below the 2,000 mark for the first time.

The government has set a goal of reducing annual working hours per employee to 1,800 in fiscal 1996.

In the same survey, it was found that the average monthly salary in the year gained 1.4 percent over the year before to 393,302 yen in nominal terms but remained unchanged in real terms.

It was the slowest year-on-year rise since fiscal 1980, when the average monthly salary dropped 1.7 percent from the year before, ministry officials said.

Overtime allowances plunged 10.8 percent to 23,336 yen per month, while bonuses and other special income inched down 0.6 percent to 103,051 yen.

Regular monthly salaries rose 3.4 percent to 266,915 yen.

In March, overtime hours fell 13.5 percent from the previous year to 11.8 hours while overtime pay dropped 9.0 percent, the ministry said.

Government Announces Mar Employment, Jobs Figures

OW3004012493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—The ratio of job openings to job seekers dropped to a seasonally adjusted 0.88 in March, down 0.03 point from the previous month, the Labor Ministry said in a monthly report Friday [30 April].

The figure means there were 88 openings for every 100 job seekers in March.

Job openings in the manufacturing sector dropped 19.4 percent from a year earlier, and those in transportation and telecommunications fell 9.6 percent.

The wholesale-retail and food sector also saw a year-on-year decline of 7.4 percent in job offerings, and they were down 7.0 percent in the service imdustry.

In the financial and insurance sector, however, openings jumped 20.1 percent, and they were up 3.4 percent in the construction industry.

The ministry also reported the average monthly job ratio for fiscal 1992, which ended March 31, stood at 5.00, down 0.34 point from the previous year.

The management and coordination agecy said in a separate monthly report the nation's unemployment rate remained unchanged in March from the previous month at a seasonally adjusted 2. [figure as received] percent, and averaged 2.2 percent per month during fiscal [word indistinct] up 0.1 point from the previous year.

It is still considerably lower than unemployment rates in other developed nations, according to the agency.

The March unemployment rate in the United States stood at 7.0 percent, was 10.5 percent in Britain and 11.0 percent in Canada, the agency said.

Japan's unemployment rates for men and women in March both remained unchanged from February to a seasonally adjusted 2.2 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

The number of all unemployed in March reached 1.68 million, comprising 940,000 men and women. The figure increased by 170,000, or 11.3 percent, from a year earlier.

The number of people with jobs in March totaled 63.55 million, up 50,000, or 0.1 percent.

The size of Japan's work force including the unemployed, came to 65.22 million in March, up 200,000, or 0.3 percent.

The male work force was 39.05 million, up 320,000, or 0.8 percent, from a year before, while working women decreased by 120,000, or 0.5 percent, to 26.17 million.

By industry, there were three million agriculture and forestry-related jobs, a drop of 260,000, or 8.0 percent, and manufacturing jobs decreased by 400,000, or 2.6 percent, to 15.16 million.

In contrast, construction work increased by 250,000 jobs, or 4.2 percent, to 6.27 million, wholesale-retail and food services positions rose by 240,000, or 1.7 percent, to 14.45 million and jobs in service industries were up 200,000, or 1.3 percent, to 15.04 million.

Steelmakers To Cut Capital Spending by 23.5 Percent

OW2304144193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan's five major steelmakers plan to spend a combined 700 billion yen on facilities and equipment for fiscal 1993, which began April 1, down 23.5 percent from the previous year's estimates and the first decline since 1988. Of the five, only Kawasaki Steel Corp. plans higher outlays than last year, raising investment by 7.1 percent to 150 billion yen, due chiefly to an ongoing overhaul of its Chiba plant near Tokyo.

The four others are Nippon Steel Corp., NKK Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., and Kobe Steel Ltd. The major steelmakers had been keeping capital investment at a high level, primarily to expand surface-treatment facilities and to promote labor-saving.

But such moves have run their course, and the steelmakers are beset by rising fund-raising costs, industry sources said. One of the sources said, however, "while the planned outlays are lower than the previous year, the amount itself remains high, at almost the same level as in fiscal 1990."

Sumitomo Metal Industries is the only one of the five planning new large projects, spending 90 billion yen to renovate lines producing seamless pipes as part of an overhaul of its Wakayama plant, and 17.1 billion yen to build a stainless hot coil facility at its Kashima plant.

Kawasaki Steel's renovation project of its Chiba plant is already in its third year, and 60 billion yen will be spent in fiscal 1993 mainly for the No. 4 steel mill and the No. 3 hot-rolling facility. The company is also expected to continue investing heavily in fiscal 1994 and 1995, the sources said.

To carry out the investment, Kobe Steel needs to raise some 100 billion yen in fresh funds, and Kawasaki Steel and Sumitomo Metal Industries some 40 billion yen each, according to the sources.

The following are the capital investment plans announced by the five steelmakers for fiscal 1993, with

figures in billions of yen and year-on-year percentage changes in brackets.

Nippon Steel	170	(-15.0)
NKK	145	(-29.5)
Kawasaki	150	(7.1)
Sumitomo130	(-29.7)	
Kobe	105	(-42.9)

Kanemaru To Resign From Three Lobby Groups

OW2704140493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Fallen ruling party kingmaker Shin Kanemaru, now facing trial on alleged tax evasion, will resign as chairman from three influential lobby groups that have strong ties to the Ministry of Construction, industry sources said Tuesday [27 April].

Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, conveyed his will to resign as chairman of the National River Conservation-Sabo Society [name as received] to the society's executives on April 23, the sources said. The society—based in Tokyo's Nagata Cho—groups municipal governments and regional autonomous bodies, as well as dietmen with cozy financial links to construction companies, they said. Backed by Kanemaru's political clout, the society has wielded strong influence over the ministry in directing state public works budgets to municipal governments, they said. Kanemaru assumed chairmanship of the society in November, 1987. His predecessors include former Construction Minister Eiichi Nishimura and former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who was arrested in connection with the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal.

Two other industry bodies from which Kanemaru will withdraw as chairman are the National Association of Disaster Prevention and the Kaigai Kensetsu Bosai Kyokai, the industry sources said. The two bodies are also known as strong lobbies within the Construction Ministry in seeking to win public works projects for their members, they said.

SDPJ, Komeito To Cooperate on Political Reform Bills

OW3004110393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Leaders of Japan's two largest opposition parties agreed Friday [30 April] to cooperate on electoral and political reform proposals, party officials said. They also agreed to propose a meeting between the heads of the ruling and opposition parties to reach a compromise bill. Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP), and Komeito chairman Koshiro Ishida agreed to join hands to push through political reform measures during the current session of the Diet, which ends on June 20, the party officials said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) earlier submitted a package of four bills that call for tighter controls on political funding and an introduction of single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives. The SDP and Komeito, however, proposed a set of six bills designed to replace the current multi-seat electoral districts in the powerful lower house with a system based on proportional representation. Yamahana and Ishida agreed to call on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who also serves as LDP president, to set a meeting among party leaders after the end of the so-called Golden Week, a string of holidays from late April to early May, to discuss electoral and political reform issues, the officials said.

Yamahana also met with Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Social Democratic Party (Shaminren), a minor opposition group, and the two leaders agreed to work together to push the reform measures through the diet, party officials said. They also agreed to cooperate in various electoral districts during the next general elections for the lower house.

'Ultraleftist' Group Claims Responsibility for Attacks

OW3004045593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—An ultraleftist group claimed responsibility Friday [30 April] for six attacks on temples and police boxes in Kyoto as well as an assault on a Yamanashi prefectural assembly member's home, all in protest against the emperor's visit to Okinawa.

The Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction) Revolutionary Force said in a letter delivered to KYODO NEWS SERVICE it staged the attacks in opposition to the four-day visit of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Okinawa beginning April 23.

It was the first visit by a reigning emperor to the southernmost prefecture, the only part of the country to have experienced ground battles with the United States during World War II.

The letter said the revolutionary forces "were victorious against the visit of the emperor to Okinawa." It also called for an uprising to oppose the June 9 wedding ceremony of Crown Prince Naruhito and Masako Owada, a former diplomat.

Kyoto prefectural police said Friday they set up headquarters Thursday to investigate the attacks.

Fires broke out at the attacked sites between last Saturday and the predawn hours of Sunday. The main hall of Ninnaji Temple, a national treasure, was damaged.

The small fire at the home of the prefectural assembly member, who belongs to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, occurred before dawn Monday. Part of a wall was burnt.

North Korea

KCNA: Yongbyon Nuclear Development 'Fictitious'

SK3004044293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Foul Intention To Stifle Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The United States and its followers are getting more hectic in spreading the rumour about the fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK.

Quoting a preposterous report of WASHINGTON POST, South Korean Christian Broadcasting System (CBS) Wednesday let out the hokum that a "new large-size atomic reactor under construction" in Yongbyon in the North "is in the finishing stage" and "nuclear bombs could be manufactured" there.

The rumour about DPRK's "development of nuclear weapons" set afloat by the U.S. imperialists is an utterly groundless propaganda and it is a vicious intrigue against the DPRK.

To make the rumor sound real, the U.S. imperialists even argued that "concealment of North Korea's nuclear development" had been exposed by "satellite pictures." But those photographs are forgeries of the U.S. CIA.

Consistently advocating the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the DPRK declared more than once that it had neither intention nor capability to develop nuclear weapons and it has no facilities for developing nuclear weapons to be concealed.

Having deployed a large number of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists are raising quite a row over the fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK. This only reveals their intention to stifle Korean-style socialism centered on the popular masses. This is an anachronistic dream.

KCNA Denounces Israel, South for 'Threat'

SK3004045793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Bellicose Act"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—South Korea and Israel are "preparing a joint operation to air-raid and destroy" the DPRK's "nuclear facilities", the South Korean KYONGHYANG SHINMUN reported Tuesday.

The paper quoted the Israeli daily YEDI'OT AHARONOT as saying the planned "joint operation" is attributed to "North Korea's development of nuclear weapons" which allegedly poses a "threat" to the "security" of Israel as well as South Korea.

This is a rigmarole that could be uttered only by rabid dogs tamed by the U.S. imperialists who cannot look straight at the realities.

Such reckless act of South Korea and Israel bereft of reason has whipped the entire Korean people into fury.

Should South Korea and Israel commit any military aggression on the DPRK at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, not only the Korean peninsula but the rest of the world would be engulfed in flames of war.

The South Korean authorities' bellicose moves clearly show how desperately they are trying to invade the northern half of the country.

Israel's argument about the non-existent "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK is a shameless subterfuge to conceal the truth behind its development of nuclear weapons.

Israel which is already in possession of 300 nuclear weapons, increasing the danger of nuclear war, is the cancer and disturber of peace in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

The South Korean puppets and the Zionists must not act rashly, looking squarely at the reality.

If they should touch an inch of land and a blade of grass of the DPRK despite its warnings, the Korean people and People's Army would mete out a stern punishment to the aggressors.

Koreas Urged To 'Jointly' Counter Foreign Aggression

SK3004103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Political Disputes Should Be Stopped and Unity Be Achieved Between Fellow Countrymen"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The North and the South should refrain from seeking or fomenting confrontation, cease all manner of political disputes and stop hurling abuses and slanders at each other, says an article of NODONG SINMUN today explaining the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

It quotes the great leader President Kim Il-song as saying in the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country:

"4. All manner of political disputes that foment division and confrontation between the fellow countrymen should be stopped and unity be achieved."

The article reads in part:

Now the way out for our nation is to reject foreign aggression and interference and achieve national unity.

If our nation is at feud with and fight each other it will give the imperialist reactionaries an opportunity to fish in troubled waters and the entire nation will subsequently fall victim to great powers.

If the reactionaries bossed by the United States should take a "coercive measure" against us by abusing the UN, the whole of Korean peninsula, both the North and the south, would be plunged into the crucible of war, and it is only our nation who would suffer from the grave situation.

Leaving nonetheless the imperialist aggression forces stationed in South Korea and tolerating their policy of interference and aggression will mean a suicidal act of leaving the nation at the tender mercy of foreign forces.

Jointly countering foreign aggression and interference by the united efforts of the nation is precisely the way to overcome difficulties, end the nearly half a century long tragic national division, defend the national interests and achieve eternal security and prosperity of the nation.

Trade Union Federation Sends Appeal to South Workers

SK3004052893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang April 30 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea Thursday sent an appeal to the South Korean workers on the 103rd May Day, the international holiday of the workers around the world.

Expressing the hope that the entire South Korean workers will wage a powerful struggle in hearty response to the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation to gain their democratic rights and right to live and accelerate the independent and peaceful Reunification of the country, the appeal says:

The working class in the northern half of the country is living with nothing more to desire, creating a new history by its fruitful labor as the legitimate master of the country under the socialist system of our style centered on the popular masses, with its age-old desire brought into reality. But in South Korea the elementary rights of the workers to live are ruthlessly violated.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities, while advertising "civilian government," are suppressing the righteous struggle of workers demanding wage hike, telling the lie that the chaotic economic crisis and slump have resulted from the "excessive demand for higher pay" on the part of the workers. How can this be overlooked?

Only by struggle can the South Korean workers gain their right to existence and live a life worth humanity. The South Korean workers should wage a more stubborn struggle against the low-wage policy and wage-freezing policy of the authorities in the current spring season of wage hike struggle.

If the South Korean workers truly want to live a worthy life in an independent and peaceful land, they must develop all their struggle to a struggle for independence against the U.S., for democracy against fascism, and for the reunification of the country.

Daily Condemns South Korean 'War Games'

SK3004054293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Reckless Acts of Anti-national Force"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The "Ssangyong 93" and large-scale "Hwarang" war games of the South Korean warmaniacs come under fire in NODONG SINMUN today, which condemns them as an intolerable challenge to all the fellow countrymen who want national reconciliation and unity and peaceful reunification of the country.

The news analyst says:

The option for the fellow countrymen at the moment when dark clouds of nuclear war are hanging over the nation due to criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and other reactionaries must be to achieve national unity and reunification and jointly counter foreign aggression.

The anti-national force of South Korea, however, staged nuclear war exercises against the North in league with outside forces, breaking their promise to the fellow countrymen, and are still giving off powder smell of war exercises, keeping step with outside forces' moves of aggression.

On no account can the acts of the South Korean warlike element be tolerated, the traitors who are racing headlong along the road of fratricidal war invariably following the U.S. imperialists' policy of war, in disregard of the epoch-making proposal of the fellow countrymen to achieve the reunification of the country through a great unity of the whole nation.

Radio Reports 26 Apr U.S. Aerial 'War Exercise'

SK3004030993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] According to a military source, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have staged a criminal joint air war exercise against the North in the skies of South Korea.

On 26 April, fighter-bombers and pursuit-assault planes of the U.S. Seventh Airforce flied to the skies above Yoju, Umchon, and Yongwol and staged a bombing exercise aimed at striking inland strategic targets in the northern half of the Republic in cooperation with pursuit-assault planes from U.S. bases in Japan.

Fighter-bombers from U.S. bases overseas and fighter-bombers, pursuit planes, and assault planes of the U.S. Air Force occupying South Korea were intensively mobilized to this bombing exercise that day, which were madly conducted with the support of observation planes.

In the skies above Yangpyong, Chongju, and Pyongchang on the same day, various kinds of warplanes were frenzied in an air war exercise to increase the capability of winning in the air under any war situation and unfavorable weather condition.

Fighter-bombers, assault planes, and armed helicopters mobilized to ground attack operations in Tongduchon and Kapyong staged bombing and missile launching exercises with the support of ground forces on the same day.

Meanwhile, various kinds of warplanes conducted taking off and landing exercises for emergency moving out at bases of the U.S. Air Force occupying South Korea on the same day.

All these war exercises staged on 26 April with an intensive mobilization of approximately 150 military planes of the U.S. aggression forces were dangerous fire games unexceptionally aimed at striking surprise blows against the northern half of the Republic.

Pyongyang Protests Russia's Radioactive Pollution

SK3004050693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0429 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea urged a U.N. organisation to help Russia behave properly, upon the disclosure of the fact that it had thrown away radioactive pollutants in the East Sea of Korea.

Yi Kon-il, chairman of the state environmental committee of the DPRK, sent a letter to Elizabeth Dowdeswell, executive director of the United Nations environment program, in which he said the DPRK government regarded it as an important task for protecting and promoting the health of the people to protect environment and prevent pollution and had consistently directed deep concern and solicitude to environmental protection.

He further said:

It was disclosed recently that the former Soviet Union and present Russia had thrown away radioactive pollutants in secrecy in the East Sea of Korea, the main fishing ground of Korea for a long period, causing deep concern and anger at our competent organs and among our people.

It must be noted that the dumps of nuclear waste are very near from our coast and their harm might affect our country most seriously.

While dumping nuclear pollutants in the coastal waters of our country, Russia kept it in secrecy, not reporting this to the coastal states and competent international organisation. This is a grave breach of the rules of the international environmental program and the U.N. convention on the law of the sea and the international conventions on the prevention of sea pollution.

We think it desirable that such international organisations as the U.N. environment program should not lose time in intervening in the problem and bringing home to Russia the urgency of the problem of global pollution caused by nuclear materials and helping it behave properly.

KCNA Describes Heavy Industry Hall Exhibition

SK3004000093 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1519 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The heavy industry hall is the largest building among the halls of the three revolution exhibition built in Pyongyang.

The floor space of the heavy industry hall is 23,000 square metres.

It has also an outdoor exhibition ground with an area of 7,000 square metres.

On display in the two-storeyed hall are 11,000 exhibits of 3,150 kinds showing achievements made in the heavy industrial domain.

On the first floor the visitors see a chart of the distribution of power industry, which gives a review of tens of large-scale hydroelectric and thermal power stations and 1,100 medium and small size power stations across the country and rich power resources and prospect of power industry.

There are also exhibits displaying the potential of the independent and modern power industry such as models of large-scale power bases, 50,000 kva generator and 36,000 kw scoop-wheel.

Above 1,100 exhibits of 200 kinds are on show in the mining industry section, which show achievements in coal and ore mining.

Displayed there are sand tables of the production and technical processes of such typical coal and ore mines as the anju district coal mining complex, the Komdok mining complex and the Musan mining complex and large-size, modern and high-speed mining equipment.

The metal industry section has 1,450 pieces of exhibits of 400 kinds showing the chuche-based method of iron-making, continuous roughing processing, a 18,000-cubic metre oxygen plant, an automated blast furnace and an electric hearth.

The products of second-stage metal-processing displayed there show the development of the chuche-based metal-lurigcal industry to a high stage.

Exhibited in the machine tool section are the numerically controled lathe Kusong-104, a numerically controled universal processing lathe, flexible production facilities and other machine tools as well as 450 kinds of cutting and special tools, varieties of electronic and automatic elements and devices.

On show on the second floor of the hall are exhibits displaying the achievements in railway and sea transport in which the proportion of haulage by electric locomotives has reached 90.1 percent and the volume of

external cargo shipping has leaped 235 times as against the 1970 figure and results in resources development, forestry, building materials industry and construction.

Displayed on the outdoor exhibition ground are a 300 H.P. bulldozer, a four cubic metre excavator, a 7,000 h.p. eight-axis electric locomotive, a 100-ton waggon, heavy-duty lorries and other rolling stock.

The exhibits demonstrate the validity and vitality of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on building an independent and modern heavy industry and the enormous national power.

KCNA Reviews 30 Apr NODONG SINMUN

SK3004055493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Review of NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Zambian President Frederick J.T. Chiluba on his 50th birthday.

Functions were held and mass media published articles in different countries to celebrate the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song, says the paper.

The election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK was reported in foreign countries, according to the paper.

An article of the paper says that Comrade Kim Chong-il gave eternal glory to the heroic soldiers who had performed feats by willingly dedicating their youth and lives to the party and the leader, the country and the people.

The paper gives an account of the national memorial service held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of Yi Kwang, a communist revolutionary fighter, and carries the memorial address made by Kang Sok-song, member of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea and director of the Party History Institute.

The paper editorially calls for finishing the construction of 30,000 flats in Pyongyang before the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

It reports that April assignments have been creditably fulfilled at different units of the national economy and the cold beds of rice seedlings are tended well and humus-potted maize seedlings are being transplanted on cooperative farms.

The paper gives an account of the 17th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, which discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the party policy of strengthening the organizational and ideological work of the women's union.

The chairman of the DPRK State Environmental Committee sent a letter to the executive director of the United Nations Environment Program on Russia's polluting the East Sea of Korea with nuclear waste dumping, says the paper.

It gives an account of a joint meeting of the Central Committees of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification and the Pan-National Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification held to implement the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" and carries a letter to their counterparts in South Korea and overseas adopted at the meeting.

The paper runs an article explaining the 10-point programme.

Seen in the paper is an appeal to the South Korean workers issued by the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea on the 103rd May Day, the international holiday of the workers of the world.

It informs the readers that about 1,000 South Koreans including students staged a demonstration demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. forces.

The paper in a commentary denounces the "Ssangyong 93" war exercise of the South Korean puppet army in South Korean Kangwon Province.

Under the bannerline title "Korean People Will Defend National Sovereignty and Dignity to the Last" the paper reports that foreign public circles, organizations and papers published articles supporting the self-defensive measure taken by the DPRK Government.

An article of the paper analyses the fierce struggle on the international arena between the progressive forces aspiring after independence and the dominationist forces trying to block it.

South Korea

Reaction to DPRK's Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues

Pyongyang, IAEA Discuss Inspection

SK2904225893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 29 Apr 93

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] sources have said the IAEA's ad hoc inspection [yimsi-sachal] of North Korea is likely to be partially [pub-unjok] resumed three months after its suspension in early February.

The source said: Contacts between North Korea and the IAEA, such as exchanges of correspondence and a meeting between their officials, have taken place recently to discuss resumption of the ad hoc inspection. North Korean officials have said they would allow the IAEA experts to make limited [pubunjok] visits to North Korea. Therefore, the IAEA inspection team is likely to visit North Korea early next week at the earliest.

Regarding this, IAEA Spokesman Hans Mayor said: This has not been confirmed. The inspection experts have not obtained North Korean visas yet.

He said, however, that the inspection team would visit North Korea soon.

Pyongyang Expected To Allow Visit

SK3004004993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Berlin, April 29 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to soon partially resume its ad hoc inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities after a lapse of three months.

IAEA sources said Thursday that North Korea had expressed its intention to allow IAEA experts to visit Pyongyang following active consultations between the IAEA and North Korea through letters and personal contacts recently.

The two sides were currently discussing the date of the visit, the problem of obtaining North Korean visas and other matters, they said. The visit may take place as early as early next week, they added.

Hans Meyer, the IAEA spokesman, said the date for the visit had not been set but he indicated a visit by an IAEA team was imminent by saying the IAEA officials had not yet received visas from North Korea.

The North Korean embassy in vienna also confirmed that the two sides were negotiating on the list of visitors. They will be able to visit North Korea in a few days, it said.

IAEA sources said North Korea has shown difficulties with any IAEA visit before May 1, because it is North Korea's labor day and an important holiday.

Meanwhile, the specific purpose of the planned visit was not known but informed sources said the IAEA team's activities would likely be limited to checking functions of"the cameras and other inspection equipment" installed in the North Korean nuclear facilities and changing films.

One IAEA expert said the IAEA has to check inspection cameras and other equipment every three months.

The IAEA spokesman denied as inaccurate press reports that North Korea has formally asked the IAEA to observe the changing of nuclear fuel at a 5 megawatt reactor in yongbyon, North of Pyongyang.

North Korea is reportedly planning to send a delegation to the IAEA for talks on formal resumption of ad hoc inspections of its nuclear facilities.

But IAEA officials explained that even if ad hoc inspections formally resume, it does not mean the North Korean nuclear issue' found a decisive turning point for a resolution.

The IAEA spokesman also said there had not been any progress in the IAEA's efforts to hold special inspections on two nuclear facilities suspected of being nuclear reprocessing plants. North Korea has been refusing to allow special inspections of the two facilities, claiming they are just military installations.

An official at the North Korean embassy acknowledged that the IAEA was continuing to ask for special inspections on these facilities, but said that North Korea "will never allow them."

Mission: PRC Opposes UNSC Proposal

SK3004011893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0054 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, April 29 (YONHAP)—The permanent members of the U.N. Security Council [UNSC] have finished drafting a resolution on North Korea but are engaged in last-minute negotiations because China opposes it, officials at the South Korean mission said Thursday.

The five-point draft has been circulated among the 15 permanent and non-permanent council members, who are expected to vote on it in a formal meeting sometime next week, the officials said.

The centerpiece of the draft is the security council's indirect warning of economic sanctions, which says the members will decide on further measures if North Korea does not take steps to resolve concern over its secretive nuclear program.

It urges North Korea to rescind its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), confirm its responsibilities as an NPT party and comply with the safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The draft calls on IAEA Director-general Hans Blix to negotiate with North Korea to solve Pyongyang's non-compliance and to report the results of the negotiation to the Security Council within one month after the resolution is adopted. It asks all U.N. members to persuade North Korea.

While the statement issued by the UNSC president earlier this month expressed overall concern of the international community, the resolution makes specific demands and makes room for further coordinated actions, including an economic embargo, the officials pointed out.

U.N. sources said there was a considerable chance of a much softer resolution because of persistent opposition from China, which is a permanent member and has veto power.

"The time has come for China to clarify where it stands on North Korea's nuclear program," one South Korean diplomat said, cautiously optimistic that Beijing is more likely to abstain than veto because of the global dimension of the problem.

An abstention would mean China was conditionally voting "yes" on the resolution, adding a new level of pressure on North Korea to comply with the international demands, officials said.

'Sources': U.S. May Exclude Seoul From PFC Status

SK3004040093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 29 (YONHAP)—The United States is likely to exclude South Korea from the list of Priority Foreign Countries (PFC) for intellectual property rights, which is the biggest trade issue between Seoul and Washington, informed sources said Thursday.

The U.S. Government is scheduled to officially announce the evaluations on actual intellectual property rights protection by foreign countries on Friday.

Korea will be excluded in recognition of the efforts Seoul has made to crack down on infringement on rights and improve related regulations and laws to protect them, according to the sources.

It is not known whether Korea will be named a Priority Watch Country (PWC) like last year or downgraded to a watch country, but there is a high possibility it will remain a PWC.

Washington has admantly called for Seoul to dispose of illegal records and videotapes produced before 1987, when the two nations signed a pact to protect the rights, within three months.

Korea has asked for six months, and a compromise seems likely.

The Korean Government says it will continue to crack down hard on piracy by strengthening relevant laws, and the U.S. side has evaluated the position affirmatively.

Taiwan and Thailand are highly likely to be named PFCS and some U.S. businesses have pressured the U.S. trade representative to name Korea a PFC.

If a country nominated a PFC fails to solve differences within six months of negotiations, it is subject to stiff trade retaliation.

Whether Korea is designated a PFC has been viewed as a major yardstick for the trade policy of the U.S. Administration, and the positive sign for Korea is expected to help trade between the two countries, the sources said.

Firms Lose Money in Economic Ventures With Russia

SK3004035193 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 29 Apr 93 p 9

[From the "Economic Antenna" column]

[Text] The general trading firms and the small and medium-size business firms that produced goods as part of the ROK loan to Russia are having difficulty with the execution of the loan for economic cooperation that was suspended last October.

According to data released by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Resources, the present stock on hand produced in connection with the economic cooperation with Russia includes $19 million by Samsung Co., $14 million by Lucky-Gold Star Co., $14 million by Daewoo, and $8 million by Hyundai. Adding the goods produced by small and medium-size firms, the total amount of stock reaches $69 million.

Samsung and Lucky-Gold Star have enough goods for export to Russia, such as condoms and motors for machines (worth approximately $1.8 million), to fill 60 20-foot containers piled on the dock at Pusan port. The small and medium-size manufacturers have also produced enough goods for 1,000 20-foot containers for export to Russia using money from the economic cooperation fund of $330 million, which the Export-Import Bank has not yet approved. They are eagerly awaiting the resumption of economic cooperation.

Japanese Paper: Kim Willing To Visit Tokyo for Summit

SK3004025693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam is willing to visit Tokyo as early as this summer, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Friday.

The Japanese daily quoted Kim as saying in an exclusive interview that the safest and wisest security relations between Korea and Japan were to remain within a framework in which the United States is the main pillar.

Seoul was pooling all diplomatic efforts for a peaceful solution to North Korea's nuclear problem, but it was also studying countermeasures for when North Korea

refused to return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), the NIHON KEIZAI reported Kim as saying.

It was a matter of course that leaders of the two countries negotiated bilateral problems such as trade imbalance and he was willing to visit Japan as early as the summer, he was quoted as saying.

On Japan's action for "comfort women," one of the key issues standing in the way of bilateral relations and an early summit, the president said South Korea would not demand compensation but just full disclosure of the facts and truth by the Tokyo government.

Seoul officials have been saying that the Seoul-Tokyo summit should not take place until Japan takes steps acceptable to the South Korean people in explaining the historical truth about the some 100,000 to 200,000 Korean comfort women taken to the frontline as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

"There should not be any nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula," Kim told the NIHON KEIZAI, adding that Seoul was prepared with countermeasures if North Korea decided to come back to the NPT.

"But now is not the time to reveal what these countermeasures are," he said.

On regional security, the president ruled out the possibility of China emerging as a dominating military power in the region.

"The time is over for a single nation to seize hegemony by rising to be a military power," Kim told the paper.

He also ruled out social confusion or retaliation by the military over his high-speed reform.

"Eradicating corruption and irregularities helps the national economy. Even the military is greatly satisfied with the removal of corruption within and reforms through personnel reshuffles," Kim said.

Economic Data Show 'No Signs of Recovery' Since Jan

SK3004035093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—The economy has not worsened since January, but it shows no signs of recovery either, the National Statistical Office said Friday.

Unemployment rose to 3 percent in January and is unchanged.

Industrial production figures for February and March are good because of the automobile, computer and petrochemical sectors, but light industrial areas like textiles, garments and timber are slack.

Industrial production rose 2.3 percent in March, which compares with 5.3 percent in February and 9.6 percent in March last year. It rose 0.7 percent in the first quarter over a year earlier, which compares with 9.3 percent in 1992.

Factories were operating at 78.8 percent of capacity in March, which compares with 77.9 percent in February and 81.1 percent in the same month last year.

Warehouse releases rose 3 percent in March, which compares with 10.55 percent in the same month last year. They climbed 1.6 percent in the first quarter, which compares with 9.2 percent last year.

Exports rose 2.4 percent in March from a year earlier, compared with 9.5 percent in the same month last year, and domestic sales rose 3.2 percent (10.8 percent). Exports rose 2.9 percent (8.4 percent) and domestic sales gained 1.3 percent in the first quarter (9.3 percent).

Construction-allowed areas, a sign of construction investment, rose 109.3 percent in March from a year earlier and 31.3 percent in the first quarter because of removal of construction restrictions.

Orders for domestic machinery in manufacturing rose 11 percent in March, which compares with 7.3 percent a year earlier. It soared 6.5 percent in the first quarter, compared with 2.4 percent last year.

Unemployment hit 3.1 percent in March, compared with 3 percent in January and 3.4 percent in February.

In March, 18,758,000 people were in employment, up 45,000 from a year earlier in the lowest growth since September 1984.

Consumption rose 10 percent in March (6.1 percent in the same month last year) and 8.3 percent in the first quarter (7.5 percent) and inventories increased 8 percent in March and 16.2 percent in the first quarter.

Kim Yong-sam Discussses Revamped Export Strategy

SK3004105393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam told 20 top exporters Friday that Korea had only two or three years to get its economy back in order or it was destined to remain always backward.

"If the economy doesn't recover in two or three years, we shall straggle forever. If we are to be an advanced economy, exports must provide the springboard for a second economic take-off," he told the businessmen over lunch at Chongwadae.

The Korean economy had lost its competitiveness in the world market because of excessive pay demands and the industrialists' neglect of investment in technology development, he said.

"At this moment, business leaders should renovate themselves first for business innovation and industrial harmony.

"We are to change our past export strategy of manufacturing much and selling cheap, develop our own brands and produce new goods suited to foreigners' tastes," he said.

"In order to defeat the developing countries, which have nearly caught up with us, we must improve the quality of our goods and produce goods filled with the heart and soul of our workers."

Ministry Notes Increase in Overseas Investments

SK3004105493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1006 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—South Korean industries have been investing abroad at an accelerated pace since the turn of the year.

Finance Ministry figures showed on Friday that direct overseas investments during the first quarter of this year reached 416 million dollars in 187 projects.

They represent a rise of 31.7 percent in projects and 75.3 percent in amount over the corresponding period of last year.

A Finance Ministry official said the increase in projects was because small industries actively invested in China and Southeast Asian countries while the rise in the total investment amount was due to the fact that leading industries like Daewoo, goldstar and Samsung electronics made large-scale investments abroad.

Daewoo Corp., for example, invested 100 million dollars in a compact car plant in Uzbekistan and another 99.9 million dollars in a cement plant in China.

Manufacturing, mostly labor-intensive industries like garments and prefabricated metal, took the lion's share in the investment, accounting for 76.8 percent of the total amount.

By area, 84.5 percent of the projects have gone to China and Southeast Asian countries. China alone drew 110 projects totaling 195 million dollars in the January-March period.

Hyundai Group To Conform With 100-Day Economic Plan

SK2804003593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] The Hyundai business group yesterday decided not increase domestic end-user prices of its products this year in accordance with the administration's "100-day economic revitalization" package featuring price and wage freezes and pump-priming measures.

The decision came in a meeting of chief executive officers of all Hyundai subsidiaries, presided over by group chairman Chong Se-yong, officials said.

It will cover all Hyundai products ranging from furniture, aluminum, steel pipes and steel rods to computers and autos.

Hyundai will shorten the period of settling bills with subcontractors to 60 days from the previous 90- or 120-days. Bills worth 5 million won or less will be paid instantly.

It will also double funds for suppliers of parts and assemblies to 200 billion won as part of the steps to boost the activities of small and medium firms in compliance with administration initiatives, according to the officials.

The money will be used to expand production facilities or acquire new technologies.

In the meantime, the monthly pay for section chiefs or higher officials will be frozen, while 12,000 houses will be offered to them at low prices in compensation for their "sharing of the burden" in the economic revamping.

The Hanjin group came up with a more drastic step—cutting allowances for 400-odd executives by 10 percent.

The action followed an accord between labor and management of Korean Air, a major member firm of Hanjin, to freeze salaries of all employees, officials said.

Universities To Reinstate Antigovernment Activists

SK2404024493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—Eighty-seven universities have offered to take back approved students who they had expelled for anti-government activities, the Education Ministry said Saturday.

Seventy-one universities, including Yonsei and Korea, would re-admit the students in the first semester and 16, including Seoul National and Chonnam, in the autumn semester, the ministry said.

It said 101 universities had revised their regulations to allow re-registration of expelled students and 83 of them had set up committees to look into the matter.

Of the 71 universities that will reinstate students in the first semester, 54 have finished receiving applications from a total of 1,107 students and eight have already let

91 students back in class. The fate of rest is expected to be decided by the end of this month.

Choson University in Kwangju had 150 applications for reinstatement, followed by Korea and Yonsei with 108 each, Sungkyunkwan with 75, Inha with 60, and Hanguk University of Foreign Studies with 58.

Rep. Pak Kye-tong of the opposition Democratic Party is among the applicants to Korea and Yim Su-kyong, imprisoned for illegally visiting North Korea in June 1989, sought to return to the French department at Hanguk.

The ministry will also allow reinstatement of students expelled for financial reasons from the coming second semester on.

Burma

Chairman of State Sangha Committee Dies 28 Apr

BK2904131893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] It has been learned from the Religious Ministry that the chairman sayadaw of the State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee, Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Chancellor of the state pariyatthi religious universities and Chief Patron of Pegu Myoma Sartintaik Bandanta Einasara, age 97 years and wasa [years in monkhood] 77, while taking treatment from physicians, died at the military general hospital in Mingaladon at 1014 today. [passage omitted]

The remains of the late abbot will lie in state at the Sahta Sangha Yatana Maha Patana great cave. The state will sponsor the funeral ceremony to be held at Thiri Mingala Kabaaye hill. It has been learned that the date of the funeral will be announced later.

Ministers Inspect Satellite Ground Station Project

BK2804040193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] U Than Shwe, minister of industry-2 and U Soe Tha, minister of communications, post, and telegraphs, visited the international satellite communications earth station project in Pyindaungchaung, Thanlyin [Syriam], today and met with responsible personnel.

Accompanied by responsible personnel, the minister of industry-2 and the minister of communications, post, and telegraphs arrived at 0900 at the site office of the international satellite communications earth station project in Pyindaungchaung, Thanlyin. They were briefed by personnel from the Myanmar [Burma] Communications Enterprise concerning the state of Myanmar's international communication lines for telephone and telex; plans to expand current 52 international telephone lines to 300 lines and work being coordinated with countries concerned; funds allocated in local and foreign currencies for the project; construction of the international satellite communications station in Pyindaungchaung, Thanlyin; construction of the satellite station and the microwave station for the automatic international exchange; construction of the automatic international exchange in Mayangon, Yangon [Rangoon]; and the fiber optic system connecting the automatic international exchange with the domestic exchange network.

U Htay Aung, managing director of the Myanmar Communications Enterprise, then explained the progress of the project.

U Khin Maung Lin, managing director of the Industrial Project Department, explained the satellite communications station being constructed by the Industrial Project Division of the Ministry of Industry-2. The chairman of the township law and order restoration council expressed his willingness to provide any assistance needed from the township. Minister U Than Shwe said equipment for the project had already arrived and asked for assistance to provide security for the equipment.

Next, the ministers and party inspected the progress in the construction of the satellite communications station and the foundation work for the antenna and tower, and viewed the equipment that had already arrived at the site.

Speaking on the occasion, U Soe Tha, minister of communications, post, and telegraphs, said the state is striving to develop the economy in accordance with the market economy system and that it is essential to have good international communications. He explained that only when international communications are good can the country's economic development accelerate. He said the pace of economic development will be slow if international communications system are not good. Therefore, he added, a large amount of foreign exchange is being used to improve the international communications system necessary for the country's economic development.

The minister said that when the project is completed International Direct Dial will be available and that it is very important to complete this project. He said expansion of telephone lines in Yangon, the installation of cellular telephones, and other communications projects currently being undertaken are connected with this project and it is essential to complete this project on time. Therefore, he urged the completion of individual projects according to the targets set.

He urged personnel concerned to carefully store equipment when it arrives because large amounts of foreign exchange have been used for the purchases.

PRC Railway Bureau Chief Calls on Rail Minister

BK3004102093 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0700 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The chief of Kunming Railway Bureau of Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China, Mr. (Cheng Peng Miang), and party called on U Win Sein, minister for rail transportation, at the latter's office yesterday morning.

They had cordial discussions on cooperation between Myanmar Railways and Kunming Railway Bureau in rail transportation activities of mutual interests.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Renews Call for SNC Meeting in Beijing

BK3004095693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 30 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk called Friday for a meeting of all four rival Cambodian factions in the Chinese capital next week to discuss peace and the U.N.-supervised elections scheduled for May 23-27.

The prince, who is currently in Beijing, earlier this week informed the United Nations here that he would not be able to attend a meeting of the interim Supreme National Council (SNC) which had been scheduled here for May 6 because of poor health.

Prince Sihanouk, who chairs the SNC, called in a statement released here on three representatives from the Phnom Penh government and one each from the three other factions including the Khmer Rouge to attend talks in Beijing on May 5-6.

The prince said it was not necessary that the faction representatives sent to the meeting be their official representatives on the SNC.

While not calling it an SNC meeting, the prince was sticking to the proportion of representation of the various factions on that body, with the government having as many delegates as the opposition factions combined.

The SNC groups representatives of Cambodia's four warring factions—six for the government and two each for the Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-communist parties—under U.N. supervision. The body represents Cambodia's sovereignty while the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) administers the country in the run-up to elections.

The head of UNTAC, Yasushi Akashi was also invited to attend the talks.

An UNTAC official here said Akashi was not yet aware of the proposed meeting.

A mid-April proposal from Prince Sihanouk for an SNC meeting in Beijing was rejected by the Phnom Penh government.

"We cannot waste our time in Beijing," said government senior adviser and deputy minister Khieu Kanharit at the time.

"We cannot expect any change from the Khmer Rouge," he said adding that the government was too busy running an election campaign to take time off to travel to Beijing.

In his call Friday Prince Sihanouk said representatives for the proposed Beijing meeting could be people who are not indispensable for electioneering.

Khieu Kanharit said Friday that the government had not yet decided whether to send a representative to Beijing.

"Up to now our position is that we have to have SNC meetings in Cambodia," he said.

The last SNC meeting attended by all four factions was on April 10.

Three days later the Khmer Rouge, who are boycotting the late May polls, withdrew all their officials from Phnom Penh citing security concerns.

UN Pulls Out of Pailin, Denies Cutting KR Ties

BK3004083693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 30 Apr 93

[by Robert Birse]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 30 (AFP)—The United Nations Friday withdrew the last of its personnel from the nominal Khmer Rouge [KR] headquarters of Pailin but stressed that ties with the hardline guerrilla faction were not being cut.

The last five U.N. peacekeepers, including three Australian communications officers and military observers from the United States and Ireland, left the western Cambodian town and crossed into Thailand, said an official from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"The decision to redeploy, which has been under consideration for some time, was taken because the NADK had indicated that it did not intend to let UNTAC maintain a liason function in Pailin," said UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt.

NADK—the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea—is the official name of the Khmer Rouge forces.

The peacekeepers from Pailin were due to cross back into a Phnom Penh-government controlled area of western Cambodia later Friday, Falt said.

The United Nations had maintained a presence in Pailin since a six-member advance mission was stationed there in December 1991.

While the Khmer Rouge identifed the bombed out town as its headquarters most observers said it was not the real seat of Khmer Rouge power.

Although the United Nations was initially welcomed, as relations with the Khmer Rouge gradually deteriorated the position of the peacekeepers in Pailin became increasingly difficult.

At times the peacekeepers were confined to their concrete office in the centre of the town and the Khmer Rouge has not had a liaison officer there for some time.

"The main purpose of being there is to talk to them. If there are no liaison officers there we have to talk to them elsewhere," Falt said.

"Ties with the NADK are not being cut," he said.

Contacts between the U.N. and the Khmer Rouge were being maintained at Sok San, a small enclave on the Thai border in western Cambodia surrounded by Khmer Rouge-controlled territory.

Sok San was formerly a non-communist guerrilla base. Two platoons of Dutch peacekeepers are currently based there along with several U.N. military observers.

"Active contacts (with the Khmer Rouge) have now been established in Sok San and UNTAC is pursuing the enhancement of these contacts with a view to maintaining there a dialoge with the NADK," Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge withdrew all their officials from Phnom Penh in early April, citing security concerns.

Apart from the informal ties at Sok San there are now no official points of contact between the guerrilla group and the United Nations on Cambodian soil.

The two sides still maintain contact in Bangkok, Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge are boycotting May 23-27 elections being organised by UNTAC, which they say are unfair.

The guerrilla faction, blamed for a rash of bloody attacks on ethnic Vietnamese settlers and on U.N. peacekeepers has refused to rule out the use of violence to disrupt the polls.

In the latest incident, a group of armed men wearing Khmer Rouge uniforms held up and robbed a U.N. convoy in Kratie province northeast of the capital on Wednesday.

The gunmen stole weapons, ammunition and personal belongings from the 12-vehicle convoy of a Polish engineering battalion, Falt said.

No one was injured during the incident.

6 Vietnamese Killed in Kaoh Thom District 17 Apr

BK3004024293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] According to a report from Kaoh Thom District in Kandal Province, inhabitants at Chroy Takeo village in Chroy Takeo commune of the same district and province on 17 April killed six Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] at a pond, east of the village. The report further says the people's revolt against the Yuon is now widespread and occurs in the form of small- or large-scale movement or gathering of 200 to many thousands of people attacking Yuon villagers or Yuon floating houses. Grenade attacks on and shooting and slashing of the Yuon are now increasing. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Speaks in Kien Svay District 23 Apr

BK2904070393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, at a meeting at Kien Svay Khnong Monastery in Kien Svay District of Kandal Province on 23 April—recorded]

[Text] I would like to greet the clergy and all grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, older and younger brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and students toward whom I have the most affectionate, respectful, and thoughtful sentiments. I would like to greet all guests, officials, and generous persons present here. And I would also like to greet civilian UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] policemen who are ensuring security for this rally.

Today, I am very happy to be able to take part in the ceremony to offer alms to Buddhist monks and inaugurate another new realization—the Buddhist school called Kien Svay Khnong Buddhist School—that (?the district chief) has presented a report about to us just now. We will also inaugurate a stretch of road, the living quarters of the monastery's abbot, a generator, and a dining hall. The construction of this dining hall began on the new year. And Mr. and Mrs. Huot Vanthan, who were are not able to come today, have completed construction in only one week. No doubt, now it is the high-tech era, so everything can be done quickly with, of course, donations from our compatriots and generous persons.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to thank the district people's committee and the provincial people's committee [words indistinct] for their efforts in achieving those construction feats. Also, I wish to thank the workers for their active participation in making the construction successful. Moreover, I would like to thank the Phnom Penh people's committee for their assistance in restoring the road. A few years ago, this road was badly damaged. It was used by pig transport trucks that took a short cut through this monastery. I am told that it is no longer appropriate for the trucks to use the road in this manner. [words indistinct] the road which has been used for many years but has never officially been inaugurated.

Thanks should also be addressed to Mr. Kong Tri for his cash contribution toward the construction [words indistinct]; Mr. Huot Vanthan for his donation of this dining hall that will be used by Buddhist monks studying here; and Mr. And Mrs. Kim Srun for their donation of a generator, shelves, and other materials to the Buddhist school; as well as other generous persons for their contributions toward building the monastery's fence.

However, we should never forget to pay tribute to the Buddhist followers and monks who previously built part of this Buddhist school. We do not know whether they are still alive, were killed in the Pol Pot era, or have already passed away because of illness. Somehow, we would like them to share the results of what we will inaugurate in this monastery today.

I wish to recall that this Buddhist school is not a brand-new one. Its construction started in the previous generation. Unfortunately, as our country fell into war at that time, construction was then brought to a halt. It is reported that this monastery was also used as a garrison. This shows the adverse consequences of war. Anyway,

the war between 1970 and 1975 only brought adverse consequences, but Buddhist monks or Buddhism were not yet eliminated. Only after the Pol Pot regime ruled over the entire Cambodia did the religion cease its existence.

I will not take much time to talk about a number of issues, because today we will have a lot of things to do, such as offering alms to Buddhist monks and inaugurating some of our achievements. By the way, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the government, His Excellency Heng Samrin, and His Excellency Chea Sim, I would like to profoundly praise our compatriots in Kandal Province in general and those in Kien Svay and Lvea Em Districts in particular, as well as the Buddhist monks for their great efforts in reviving everything, including Buddhism. I would like to heartily praise them for their endeavors in reviving and developing everything. Also the CPP and the SOC [State of Cambodia] Government would like to wish each of you all the best. May you enjoy longevity, a fair complexion, happiness, zealous physical strength, good health, and wisdom.

During the election campaign which has begun during the past two weeks, you have heard my statements on [words indistinct] the CPP's political program. On this solemn occasion, our compatriots, apart from participating in the inaugural ceremony, will be able to listen to my statement as well. I am extremely moved and pleased with the warm reception hosted by all of you for me and the delegation comprising Chea Soth and other officials from the central and provincial institutions. Your love for me and other leaders will encourage us in continuing our work to achieve peace and national reconciliation and rebuild the country.

As you know, I have made many statements, including the one in Prek Russei yesterday. Also yesterday, I had a nearly three-hour talk with UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi. I was informed about a number of problems. Earlier, I was accused of hiring people to listen to my speeches, and our police were accused of forcing people to attend my meetings. I plead with the clergy, grandmothers, and grandfathers to render me justice. They always hurl accusations at me. The reason they say I hire or force people to listen to my speeches is because tens of thousands of people have attended my meetings each time while their rallies are attended by only a handful of people. We are also accused of forcibly barring people from listening to them. And yesterday they said the reason Hun Sen is able to make long and eloquent speeches and the reason the people like to listen to his speeches is because there are Vietnamese experts behind him. I really do not understand this allegation. As you already know, I have a host of advisers. A few days ago, during one of my speeches, my advisers wrote something on a sheet of paper and handed it to me, because they wanted me to add something that I omitted in my speech. They advised me from behind. I then looked at the sheet to see whether I needed to talk about the matter they proposed to me. They say Hun Sen always listen to his advisers in doing his job. If I do not listen to my advisers, why would I need them? I listen to my advisers—I wish to make this clear to other political parties—because Hun Sen is not a despot. Hun Sen is different from all of you who have done everything at will [words indistinct]. Several million people have died because you did not want to listen to others. Hun Sen has not listened only to his advisers—most of my advisers are academics; if Mr. Chea Soth sitting behind me wrote something to me, I should, all the same, look at what he proposed and if it is right, I will accept it—but also other fellow countrymen regardless of whether they farmers or laborers. The other day I received two letters from two persons, one person is probably still young because he calls me uncle, in Prey Veng Province. He asked me what kind of local issues I was going to discuss with the people. As I said at Prek Russei yesterday, that nephew wrote: When I watch video I feel very sleepy, but when I listen to Uncle Hun Sen, even for the whole night, I never want to go to bed. He wrote that to me. The letter content is very reasonable.

A few years ago, some political parties accused us of recruiting troops. I want to ask why did we need more troops and why did we need to solve problems? It was because of the coup d'etat staged by Lon Nol. After the military coup, war broke out in the country; then the Khmer Rouge toppled Lon Nol and the Pol Pot regime emerged. It is asked should the Pol Pot regime be preserved? The answer is no; otherwise, all of us will be killed. [words indistinct] was the cause of the Vietnamese forces' entering Cambodia. The Vietnamese troops did not stay in the country forever and we never wanted them to remain, either. No one wants foreigners to stay in Cambodia. This is why we needed our own Army before the Vietnamese troops could go home. Every single country in the world, whether it is at war or not, needs to have its own Army. In particular for us, if we do not have forces for our defense, Pol Pot will certainly return. This is why we need an Army. The wrongdoers were Pol Pot, Son Sann, and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] because they were recruiting troops in refugee camps. Those refugees wanted to escape from war, but they were instead forced to serve as soldiers to attack and drestroy living quarters of Buddhist monks, bridges, schools, and so on. If we do not have forces, can we live in peace and can we make merit at the Buddhist school over there? The answer is no. So what should we do? We should build up our Army. And we are obliged to keep the Army because of that situation. This is what I want to make clear.

I have not listened only to my advisers, but also to a youngster calling me uncle—I am sure he is not yet grown-up. [passage indistinct] I will write to thank him.

A 71-year-old man in Kampot Province told me a Buddhist story about a leper who, after his disease was cured, became a deputy district chief, district chief, provincial chief, minister, and king in succession. He then went to Indra's heaven and asked to rule half of the

heaven and have some of Indra's wives. The Indra wondered why this person was so greedy, he then ordered his aides to turn the man into a leper as he had been previously. You see, I listen even to the story told by the senior citizen. We should not be too greedy and want everything; otherwise we will [words indistinct]. I just want to warn that if one is too greedy, Pol Pot will return and [words indistinct]. Pol Pot clearly says: When you have a big casserole, do not throw the little one away; when you have batik, do not give away the black cotton cloth, you are reminded that after the Vietnamese leave, 100 persons will be put in a single hole. And now he says: When you have a little casserole, do not throw the big one away; when you have batik, do not give away the black cotton cloth, you are reminded that after UNTAC leaves, 100 persons will be put in a single hole. So we should be very careful about this.

My advisers handing over sheets of paper to me is quite a normal matter. But they say the Vietnamese are behind me. [Passage indistinct]. They allege that my advisers sitting behind me have contacted Hanoi with wireless radios.

This kind of allegation has emerged because cellular phones are now generally used. They said the advisers sitting behind me used the phone to contact the Vietnamese embassy, which then asked Hanoi for advice. And when the embassy had a reply from Hanoi, it relayed it to the advisers, who then passed it to me. All of you have already known Hun Sen a long time ago. The other day, they wrote the biographies of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen and strewed them everywhere. I asked them to save the money for printing only their party leaders' biographies: Where and when were they born? What were their occupations? What are their nationalities [words indistinct]? How many [word indistinct], schools, and railway lines have they helped Pol Pot to destroy. They should write that. They do not need to write about Hun Sen because the Cambodian people have already known him very well. Hun Sen has been here for 14 years—since the time when the people had nothing. So you do not need to carry out propaganda for Hun Sen. Anyway, I would like to thank you very much, but I advise you to keep the paper for the propaganda about your leaders, because the people never know them, never see them, never hear about them.

When Pol Pot was massacring the people, your leaders were wringing their hands in France and the United States and did not say a single word about the killing. You would do better to talk about your leaders. Come what may, you do not need to conduct any propaganda for me because I am very well known even among the children. The latter call me uncle or grandpa Hun Sen. Please do not call me grandpa. My wife, who likes to dress up, will get very angry when she hears you call me grandpa because she does not want her husband to be an old man. So you are begged to call me just uncle or brother. [Passage indistinct]

The other day in Kampot Province, when a youngster saw me he said: I thought Hun Sen is an old man, but he is not. He is still young. However, I beg the children not to call me A [pejorative term for calling a man] Hun Sen. Other political parties call me A Hun Sen, A one-eyed jack. If they know that I am blind in one eye, why do they still need to call me one-eyed jack? I want all of you to just [words indistinct]. They do not need to talk about Hun Sen. The Cambodian people know Hun Sen better than they do. [passage indistinct]

Now I would like to talk a bit about [words indistinct]. As the compatriots have already known, our country went through a war [words indistinct] between 1970 and 1975, then the Pol Pot regime from 1975 till 1978. During those periods of time, everything and many millions of people were destroyed. We should never forget about this. They ask us to forget about the past, but how can we forget about it since we still make merit. Normally, when we are making merit we always memorize those killing our parents and the causes of their death. We still remember this when we make merit for our younger and older brothers and sisters, spouses. We can never forget about that. While we are still not able to forget about that, you start to do it again by shooting to death many people. As the compatriots can see on the television, they have not killed only the Vietnamese and Cambodians, but also scores of UNTAC staff. Now UNTAC begins to feel fear. So who will then protect the people? It is only the SOC's CPP.

Over 3 million people were killed and everything—including Buddhism, Islam, and other religions—was destroyed under the Pol Pot regime. However, since 7 January 1979, the regime has been put to an end, the SOC has been established, and everything has been revived. Not only the people's lives, but every sector has also been revived. Buddhism that the SOC and CPP have declared as the state religion has been restored and has survived and significantly developed. Other religions such as Islam and Christianity have also developed. [passage indistinct]

I want to talk about—I can never ignore this issue—the religion in our country at present. It can be said that without the CPP, the SOC, and the 7 January day, no religion could have existed. So Buddhism is irrefutably and closely linked with the CPP and the SOC regime. If we did not attack and overthrow the Pol Pot regime; if we did not create the SOC regime, and if the CPP, which has adopted the most correct [word indistinct] policy, did not exist, could we have worshipped Buddhism or other religions? The answer is no. If the Pol Pot regime could continue its existence for three, five, or 10 more years or up to now, it is certain that the grandmothers and grandfathers would not have been able to make merit and the clergy would has not been able to become monks again. On 7 January 1979, we had only a Buddhist monk who had continued his monkhood in Vietnam. [passage indistinct] As our compatriots in Vietnam wanted to worship Buddhism, they then ordained Venerable (Long Sim). So if the 7 January day

did not exist, Buddhism could not have existed again. If we waited for other people to come and liberate the country in the place of our own forces with Vietnam's assistance, no one would have come. The compatriots have to question other people by asking: uncles, grandpas, your excellencies, and your highnesses, when Pol Pot massacred the people where had you been? A few years ago, they said they were old and asked us to seek help from other people. Before all of them said that they were old. But now when the country is fine and elections are organized, they say they are young and can still be a prime minister. At present, they are striving to win votes. This is their political right. It is all right for them to do whatever they want. But what is important is whether or not the people decide to vote for them.

However, I would like to stress that without the CPP and the SOC established after the 7 January victory, we would not have had Buddhism. If the CPP that has an appropriate policy on the issue of religion did not exist, it is likely that the religion could not have developed [words indistinct]. The 7 January victory has not only revived us, but has also revived everything and restored what we lost, except for human lives. Buddhism, customs, tradition, education, culture, the living conditions and freedom of each family, and everything in society have been restored. Nevertheless, the government is now very anxious about the revival of A Paong [a dice game], illegal lottery, Yuki [a gambling game], gambling on cock fights, and a special profession. It is too overboard now. There are Kep Thmei and Kep Chas [riverside areas where short-time floating motels are fully operative and prostitutes can be supplied] in Kien Svay District. Those things have made the government become terribly worried. Illegal lottery has already been suppressed. The other day newspapers reported that at present, the Yuki are operated clandestinely. So the police are ordered to find out where they are now. And the number of thieves is also increasing as a result of that gambling. I only want to talk a bit about that issue.

I would like to emphasize that Buddhism in Cambodia has a specific character because it has been restored after it was eliminated under the Pol Pot regime. Since Buddhism has a vitally important social and moral role, it is, however, regrettable that the Khmer Rouge have abhorred and destroyed it. Monasteries are places where our customs and traditions are safeguarded. I went to many countries around the world which were previously under foreign colonization as Cambodia: in an African country which is a former French colony, all the people are speaking French; in the countries which are former British colonies, all the people are speaking English; and in the countries previously colonized by Portugal, all the people are speaking Portuguese. Their native languages have completely disappeared. [passage indistinct] Nevertheless, in our country, it was Buddhism that helped preserve our language, literature, customs, and traditions during the French colonization for nearly one century. That what we should know. I think that Hang Choun and (Men Kimly), who are candidates in this constituency and academics and who are present here, will probably not object to my remarks.

[Passage indistinct] It is the monasteries that have kept our customs, traditions, literature, books, and palm-leaf manuscripts. So we should take note of this kind of role played by the monasteries. I would like to point out that some foreigners have misunderstood us. They say the Cambodian youth have to be ordained as Buddhist monks. Of course, according to our customs and traditions, we should enter the monkhood in order to express gratitude to our mother and father. But in the past, as schools did not abound and the monasteries were the only places where the people and youth could learn, we needed to enter the monkhood. And as several foreigners said that the Cambodian youth should be ordained, I then entered the monkhood with the others. But that was because schools were scarce and because the monasteries were the only place where we could learn. Those having been ordained for one or two years are called sage after they leave the monkhood. In the past, those wanting to learn, to be educated should enter the monkhood. So we should never forget that this is a vital role played by the monasteries in preserving our national language and providing knowledge to the people.

Before the war, a host of students were living under the care of Buddhist monks. Now it is still the same. So in playing its social role, Buddhism opposes nobody. Buddhism also plays its moral and social role in educating the people to act honestly, to abide by the state law, and so on. Nonetheless, the polpotists have committed cruelties and massacres in order to destroy Buddhism. [passage indistinct] I would like to reaffirm that the CPP has developed, is developing, and will further develop Buddhism. The party has begun to establish a Buddhist institute for the purpose of conducting research on Buddhism. And we have also reorganized the Religious Affairs Ministry and planned to set up Buddhist schools of all levels. This is the plan that will we implement.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to thank all Buddhist monks and followers who have diplayed their great efforts in preserving and developing Buddhism.

The CPP considers Buddhism as an important national reconciliation center and an important place for the education of people. Where is the national reconciliation center? Various political parties, except for the atheist Polpotist group, have all entered monasteries. So it is the monasteries that are the centers for national reconciliation. Although all of us have different political persuasions, we are united around Buddhism and living under the shade of Buddhism. This is very important. Last year, I opposed a proposal made by a number of political parties that this monastery was for this party and that monastery for that party. I went to see the samdech and told him that I objected to this suggestion because it is against Lord Buddha, who never takes sides with this or that party. Is is true that Buddhist monks have the rights to support this or that party, but they can never act

against Buddhist regulations and disciples. So if this monastery belonged to the A party, that monastery to the B party, and so on, what would happen? Monasteries can be used only as a center for national reconciliation but not a center for breaking the nation. And this is why I disagreed with them.

Monasteries belong to the country, Buddhist monks, and Buddhist followers. They are not the property of any political party. Although I have made merit in this monastery and constructed the Buddhist school and other buildings—generous persons, such as Kong Tri, [name indistinct], Huot Vanthan, Huot Sun, and others as well as those from Taiwan, have also made many contributions toward the construction—I have never declared that this monastery belongs to the CPP or the Hun Sen government. Also nobody is allowed to steal—we should take precautions to protect that expensive generator against theft. [passage indistinct] Buddhist monks from both the Mohanikai and Thamayut sects as well as Buddhist monks belonging to any political party—regardless of whether they like the CPP or not—can all go to the Buddhist school. So monasteries cannot be regarded as belonging to this or that party or this or that gentleman. However, the difference between the Mohanikai and Thamayut sects is another problem. But the two sects are all under the same guidance of Lord Buddha.

In sum, the CPP considers Buddhism as a national reconciliation center for all the political parties. If the latter—except for the polpotist group—worship Buddhism, they should stay under the shade of Buddhism. The CPP also considers Buddhism as having an important moral role in society. Lord Buddha never teaches people to act cruelly, resort to violence, and commit dishonest actions. In his teaching, Lord Buddha always advises his followers to do good actions. This is why Buddhism plays a vital role.

If Buddhist monks and Buddhist followers acted according to the Buddhist teaching, peace would be restored to our country, national reconciliation would be reached, comprehension would be achieved, and dishonest, oppressive, cheating activities, and other unscrupulous activities against Buddhist rules and teaching would vanish ultimately.

Buddhist monks have advised people to do good actions and to abstain from stealing, robbing others, and cheating. That being the case, the state and party are of the opinion that Buddhism has a vitally important role in the education of people and that the state will receive enormous results from that. The state rules the country according to the state law which conforms to the Buddhist rules and teaching. The state law requires people to act rightfully and forbids them stealing, robbing others, cheating, [word indistinct]. Religious realm and laic realm are not different. They support each other. In the laic realm, there is a law prescribing that Buddhism is the state religion. However, this does not mean that other religions, such as Islam and Christianity, are ignored. There is also law for their protections. Cambodia has only adopted Buddhism as the state religion.

Along with this, the state has also allowed the use of its means, such as radio and television, to broadcast Buddhist chanting and preaching. A few years ago, there was also a discussion on the reactions from other religions to the broadcast of Buddhist chanting and preaching on radio and television. Anyway, I would like to apologize to other religions, such as Islam and Christianity, for adopting Buddhism as Cambodia's state religion. We promise not to ignore other religions. We will continue to respect them and will codify law to protect them. Respects for freedom of religion is a must. The state supports Buddhism. This is the policy of the CPP.

Besides, Buddhism has also played a role in assisting the country and state. The religion is not a tool of the state. However, via their teaching and preaching, Lord Buddha and Buddhist monks have educated people in doing good actions. So if everyone can do good actions, the state will be able to effectively administer the country in accordance with the law. This is the second point.

The third point is that our Buddhism is a vitally important nursery, a place where our customs and traditions are safeguarded. I mean there is no better place than the monasteries that palm-leaf manuscripts can be safely kept. Racing boats—Kien Svay District has sent its boats to take part in boat racing for two consecutive years; victory or defeat is a normal issue, but the main thing is that we have continued our tradition—and folk musical instruments are also kept in monasteries. So the monasteries are an educational center. Moreover, monasteries are also refuges for students who will become intellectuals involved in the construction of the country in the future. Scores of our students are living far away from high school and faculties. So when they come to Phnom Penh or other provincial tows to further their study, they will live in monasteries if they have not had relatives there. For example, now at Botum Vatdei monastery in Phnom Penh, there are 270 students living there. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank all the Buddhist monks and abbots of all monasteries for having created favorable conditions for students to live in their monasteries and to continue their studies. The state does not have enough [words indistinct], places to accommodate the students. When I was young and continuing my study in Phnom Penh, I lived with Buddhist monks at Toek L'ak monastery in the city. So I fully understand this problem. When I meet with abbots of various monasteries, I always request them to help poor students coming from remote areas since monasteries can accommodate a number of students. In sum, our Buddhism plays a considerable role in developing the society, elevating people's morality, and making people act with decorum, have regular contact with each other, and abstain from committing offenses and other vicious activities.

I am just informing you about the CPP's policy toward Buddhism, our policy toward religion. I would like to

reiterate it because we have been accused of being a communist regime. When we ask them what is a communist regime, they say communists do not use money, live and eat together, no religion, and no schools. We reply: What are Cambodians doing now? These people could not answer because it is not like what they claim.

In the religion sector, these people in particular say that Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen are deceiving people. I do not understand. If we do not have Buddhism, why was ordination allowed in 79? Why? Why should there be Buddhist schools, good vihear [main building in a Buddhist monastery in which monks are ordained]? How can these people tell such lies?

Some of our compatriots have asked this: How long will Buddhism last? I have already replied to that. I simply answered; I would like to answer like this. The question was: How long will Buddhism last; when will it end? I said: Buddhism will last and will always last as long there are still believers. As long as there are Buddhist believers, religion will always be around. It is the same for Islam. As long as Muslims still believe in Allah, Islam will remain. When it will end, I do not know; I do not know when it will end. They say Buddhism will last for only 5,000 years; I said no. This does not mean that I am opposed to Buddha; however, this depends on the people's belief. As long as people continue to practice through generations, religion will last. However, when people no longer believe, religion will vanish in a blink of the eyes. Because monks would have no food. Clergy, you will not have food if disciples stop offering alms to you. What would monks eat then? Religion will immediately disappear. As long as people still believe the way they do now, religion will not disappear but instead prosper. Why? It starts when people celebrate festivals; they will offer money to monks who will use it to build more: after the vihear, there will be monk's cells, and more Buddha images. So, it will not disappear but instead develop in accordance with Buddhist disciples' generosity.

So, on this point, no one can ban religion as long as people still believe. We witnessed this during Pol Pot's time. Despite Pol Pot's ban, a number of elderly people and disciples still secretly chanted and prayed; they have been doing this until liberation. I am just informing you; no matter what others say. The main thing is us. How can religion disappear if party leaders are such staunch believers? They had been ordained. Heng Samrin and Chea Sim had been ordained as monks. I did not stay long as a monk, only three hours—an elephant's wink monkhood. I did that for my grandmother. I can perform simple ceremonies because when I was staying in the monastery to study, I was made to chant in the evening and at dawn. This is because we eat people's food, we have to do this to pass along the merit to the people who do good deeds. Others are also Buddhist disciples. So, where would Buddhism go? It will not disappear. Furthermore, it is these people who have revived religion. Religion already vanishied in the Pol Pot era; it was the CPP who revived it.

You, outsiders from nowhere who arrived in 1991 and 1992, do not boast; these people are so good at boasting. Some say they are Buddhist disciples but offered lower garment worn by the Cham [ethnic group in the central part of Vietnam] to monks. In Peam Chikang [Kompong Cham Province], they offered Cham lower garments to monks and claimed that they are Buddhist followers. Now, listen; there are offerings and rituals to follow. Next time, learn from Hun Sen; you may gain some knowledge. Do not claim you are Buddhists. If you do not know about it, learn and see how offerings are arranged and made to monks; there is tea, sugar, and donation. This is the story. All sorts of insults have been hurled at us. Well, let them do it; so be it: puppets, nonbelievers, and so on; all sorts of things. Anyway, gentlemen the more you insult us, the more you are isolated from the people. You scolded Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen saying they have no religion. The people have not yet retorted. What about the past 14 years? Who has been reviving things over the past 14 years? Was it you or Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen? They say: A few leaders are communist ringleaders and have no religion. It is not up to your saying so; it depends on what has been done.

Concerning Buddhism, let me talk a bit more about the policy toward (?social) issues. Social issues are great and heavy for us. It is obvious that this requires great contributions from the clergy and Buddhist disciples in order to solve the problem. The government remains the one to shoulder this burden. What are these social issues? We have inherited Pol Pot's legacies. What were these legacies? There was nothing except suffering. Tens of thousands of orphans whose parents and relatives have perished; they are a burden for the government and the CPP.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the clergy and compatriots for their generosity and for sharing this heavy burden with the party and government by providing care for these orphans. Some of these orphans still do not know who they are and who their parents were. They are now in orphanages. This is a really heavy burden.

However, we are pround that in general our orphans, except those who have lost their minds, referred to as mentally sick children, have at least completed primary schooling; an overwhelming majority has gone on to secondary education; some have gone to universities. [words indistinct] some orphans [words indistinct] beggars. This heavy burden... [changes thought] ...however, we have not let the overwhelming majority of these orphans sleep on street pavement and live as street urchins. Despite meager rations, we have managed to sustain orphans and provide them with clothing and education. This was a heavy burden. Pol Pot has left us (?great suffering). There are many widows; there are many abandoned persons.

On this occasion, I would like... [changes thought] ...we are deeply proud of our compatriots' spirit to assist one

another and to assist widows and elderly people. Monasteries have rendered help to deserted persons, for example to nuns who have no relatives and who have come to rely on religion and monasteries. I would like to thank you, clergy, for your assistance. On the one hand [words indistinct], and on the other, it is assistance to alleviate the social burden of the government and the party.

I would like to take this opportunity to greatly and profoundly praise many widows for bringing up offspring [words indistinct]. Their constant efforts have been deployed to provide their children with food, clothing, and education. Many sisters and aunties have provided assistance to the children to enable them to go to primary and secondary schools, and even universities. So, the role of women in our country is very important. All the burden falls on women's shoulders. However, our women have played an important role in developing the country. Apart from abandoned persons, orphans, and widows, there are many disabled combatants because our country is at war. There are [words indistinct] also listening today. We have many disabled combatants and this is heavy burden for the party and government.

On this issue, let me inform you that after the election, the burden of this social problem for the party and government winning the election will be (?greater). What is this? The number of orphans has gone down because they have reached a working age; some have married. Some orphans are left here and there and in some centers because they have not reached the working age yet, because they have not got jobs yet, or because they are still studying.

However, (?another) heavy burden falls on our party and government: disabled persons. After the election in the country, we will not be talking about disabled persons of the State of Cambodia [SOC] or of any parties. There can be no such division. Disabled persons from anywhere should be the charge of the government winning the election.

I would like to talk about this issue so that (?we are clear) about our (?social policy). Disabled compatriots and combatants, the SOC army and the Cambodian people's police: Why should we be responsible for the disabled combatants of various parties that used to fight against us? This is because the country will have been united under the roof of a constitution and a government resulting from the election. There will be no distinction among disabled combatants of the SOC, FUNCINPEC, or the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, or disabled combatants from any areas, those who have fled from the Khmer Rouge-controlled zones. These people are the government's charge; we do not discriminate.

Now there are disabled combatants from this or that side; but after the election the next government's charge is to solve social issues; these have to be solved. You cannot say: This disabled combatant is from the other side's army; I will not feed you because you used to fight me. No, it will not be like this. Nor can the other side say: You were my enemies. No, we are war victims. And what is the root cause of the war? We know about the root cause; I informed you about this yesterday. It is because of Lon Nol's coup d'etat which created war, and then destruction and genocide by Pol Pot. Afterward, Pol Pot and his allies attacked us. This is why there are disabled persons among soldiers, policemen, and civilians. Therefore, we have to pay attention to this together.

I have discussed this issue with many international organizations; some have already come to provide assistance, for example in Kien Khleang and other places. They have come to provide artificial legs, replace eyeballs, and provide vocational training to our Cambodian disabled persons. [words indistinct] lost one leg, cannot do anything; some have been able to walk and then learn how to type or do this or that, or learn handicrafts. This is providing vocational training to enable these people to earn a living. It is true that we cannot force someone who has lost both arms or both legs or [words indistinct]; we have to deal with this problem and pay attention to alleviate the problem.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to our compatriots who are disabled persons. In the past, many of our disabled persons have done good things to uphold what is called heroism; they have very well maintained their value as disabled combatants. However, there are some disabled compatriots who have put up barricades to get money from travellers. This is not a good act; this will lead to the loss of order and our heroism, which we used to have.

So, I have frequently reminded the General Political Department of the army and the Social Affairs Ministry not to be late in paying salaries. We have implemented reforms and provided additional (?pay) before disability. Now there are many invalids in our Cambodia. In Banteay Srei District [Siem Reap Province], women and children are invalids; they are not soldiers. But Pol Pot and his allies planted mines along ricefield dikes and along roads blowing off arms and legs; people lost their eyes. This is a big issue; we have to solve it. This is one issue.

A second issue concerns our compatriots who have returned from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia, more than 300,000 of them. This is a burden for our government and party. The HCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] has brought them here already. On this issue, I would also like to thank compatriots and teachers, who have not yet received any assistance from international organizations but have made it possible for the children and relatives of returnees to attend classes in all levels of education; the majority of them have been enrolled already. I would like to thank local compatriots for providing favorable conditions for these persons to integrate into the national community.

However, the remaining issues to be solved are land and job. We have set aside a lot of land for distribution to our

repatriated compatriots. Unfortunately, even the HCR cannot do it; international demining organizations also cannot do it. This is because when we withdrew troops for cantonment, the Khmer Rouge moved into those areas and mine them. Now it is a bit difficult to have land. A few months ago at a government meeting, I appealed to all levels of the administration to create conditions and solve this land problem for compatriots to enable the latter to carry out production. This is an issue we have to work and solve together. We cannot say: This person comes from the camps of the Khmer Rouge or the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, FUNCINPEC, or that these are refugees. Everyone is Cambodian; they were forced to flee the country and their home villages because of war. [words indistinct] unite the nation; therefore, there should be no discrimination [words indistinct].

I am talking about social issues that are a heavy burden we have to shoulder now in the future. The CPP has never made any distinction between the local people—the way Pol Pot did; there were old people, new people, full-fledged people and preparatory people, and the 17 April people [words indistinct]. Now we are not doing this. Everyone is our citizen regardless of the countries from which they come. We have to implement a policy of understanding and reconciliation. There is no need for the local people to be afraid that their land will be confiscated for dstribution to repatriated compatriots. There is no need to worry about that.

What we ought to think about is that the state authority should create conditions for the people through appeal for international aid to provide production tools, rice seeds and seeds of other crops, and animals. The administration should strive to create conditions for people to clear new land to earn a living or allow them to set up jobs, handicrafts, logging, bicycle and motorcycle repair shops, or any other alternative jobs. This is our policy on social issues that I would like to briefly talk about.

I have already informed the clergy and compatriots about the CPP's guarantees to prevent the Pol Pot regime from returning and to protect citizens' legitimate ownership; no one will be allowed to confiscate this. Apart from this, there are political, economic, social, educational, religious, border and territorial integrity, and foreign residents problems; I have successively talked about them already.

Concerning the genocidal regime, we should be very careful. Yesterday evening, another general came out, General (Su Kimsun), deputy chief of staff of the FUNCINPEC army. Yesterday evening, he was talking on the radio and television. There will be some more, let me tell you. We know what parties have sided with the Khmer Rouge and their tactics to bring the Khmer Rouge inside. We know now. It is no longer the party of Samdech Euv [Sihanouk's popular title]. Samdech Euv does not have a party; he has already said this. Now, those going around lying about this, is it not about time to stop lying? Behave as a real man. Say it: I will do this and that. And do not bring his highness into this. Do not do this. He is so desparate to get votes; he uses his highness' picture [words indistinct] and his highness' name to cheat others. Do not do this. Only your face is hidden but your buttocks are fully exposed. There is no need for me to expose it. Let the few generals do this; they do know about the situation. Generals are in charge of all the army's affairs. They know about bomb attacks, destruction of temples, and so on. These generals know. If these generals think that this party [FUNCINPEC] is good, they would not have defected from it and joined our party. Afterward, this party said that these personalities left because they were given money, houses, and cars by the CPP. Let me tell you this: it is not so. Of course, we will be responsible for these persons; we would not let them starve. We will be responsible but not throw money to buy them.

These generals have frankly said to me: If we do not leave, we will be serving the Khmer Rouge without knowing it. Earlier, the Khmer Rouge took refuge under the armpit of his highness; 3 million people died. Now the Khmer Rouge are hiding under the armpit of his highness' son.

Now let the generals talk about it. Maybe they will come to visit relatives in Kien Svay—if you want to know, they will come to Kien Svay to tell you. They have the ranks of general staff officers and generals; these are very high ranks. There are now three generals; there are many more. There are candidates of that party in the election of the people's deputies; but these persons do not want to use the title of people's deputy; they have left that party. Why? This is why a number of compatriot FUNCINPEC members have also left. They say: Two-star generals have left, so how about us—the small fry? Why should we stay? Now these people have left saying: Those who left were two-star generals, they could not stay; who are we? Now they too have left. There is no longer any Samdech Euv; Samdech Euv did not know about this party. Those who remain in FUNCINPEC are thieves; those who are not thieves will not stay. Thieves do not go along with the CPP. The CPP arrests thieves whenever it encounters them. These persons are angry with us because we arrest them and put them in jail; that is why they joined that party. Some have been promised the positions of provincial governors and ministers. However, these generals, who were on the other side—if that party wins—will be made ministers, but they do not want it. They say they will not take it because this is a crime against the Cambodian people and the genocidal regime will return.

Thus, the CPP dares not say much. It has been said that I talk too much. They have insulted me, but I do not do it back. I only say this frankly: Do not be ashamed. If you have done this, there is no need to be shy or feel ashamed. You have been unmasked. The one who did it was not Hun Sen but the generals who used to work with you. The candidates for people's deputies you have nominated for the upcoming election have left. You should understand the issue.

I think it is time for the ceremony to offer food to monks. Before ending, I would just like to ask one question, as at other places: Grandmothers, grandfathers, and compatriots, will you vote for the CPP of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen? Yes? Sure? The brother over there raises even five fingers; one vote would be enough.

I am very happy and very confident of the understanding, trust, and affection to be given us in the upcoming election. In this Kandal constituency, there are some big shots coming to stand: Heng Samrin, Chea Soth, Say Phuthang, Minister Hang Chuon, Deputy Minister Mom Chimhuy, and many others—a dozen of them, including the provincial governor. I would like to leave them with you. As I stressed, as long as you vote for the angel emblem, Hun Sen will also be elected in Kompong Cham, if you love me and say why Hun Sen is not staying here—people in Khsach Kandal wanted me to stand there so that they can vote for me. Well, as long as you tick the angel emblem, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen will be elected.

So, I trust that I will get votes from you, grandmothers and grandfathers. Look carefuly where the CPP emblem, the angel figure, is before voting. Or else look for the party of Grandfather Heng Samrin, Grandfather Chea Sim, and Grandson Hun Sen—I dare not say grandfather—afraid of being old. That is why I asked for a clear answer. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the clergy and compatriots for providing constant support to the CPP, the SOC Government, and myself. This has enabled the party and the government to work for 14 years. I express thanks in advance for the votes to be given me and the CPP leaders to enable us to continue working for the country and nation. I pledge to do everything for the survival, development, rebirth, and freedom of the people.

One more time, may the new year bring the five Buddhist blessings to you, clergy and compatriots: longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Thank you.

Heng Samrin Visits Svay Rieng Province

BK2204065093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Recently, His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia [SOC], accompanied by Mrs. Men Sam-an, chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions, and personages from various institutions visited the people and attended a ceremony to open a hall at Prey Ang Monastery in Kandieng Reay commune, Svay Teap District, Svay Rieng Province.

After (Mau Vireak), chairman of the Svay Teap District People's Committee, reported on the construction work and the attention given by the CPP and soc government, H.E. Heng Samrin spoke (?expressing high respects to) the people and referring to some developments concerning implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement, especially at this final stage when our people have been preparing favorable conditions for the coming general elections.

Heng Samrin also exhorted all people and monks there to enhance vigilance so as to ensure security, public order, safety, and a happy life of our people, and to protect the process toward the elections to be organized by the UN Transitional Authority.

The delegation also paid respects to monks in the just-completed hall and presented gifts to monks in the monastery.

Party To Join Sihanoukists if Communists Kept Out

BK2304103593 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 22 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Singapore—The Cambodia Free Independent Democracy party, a small but politically significant group, has agreed to join the Sihanoukist front led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh on condition that the communists are kept out.

Dr Long Bora, president of the Cambodian Free Independent Democracy Party, told a news conference here yesterday that Prince Norodom Ranariddh had written a letter to him a week ago, requesting him to contest the Cambodian election under a Sihanoukist front.

Dr Long's participation in the alliance could tilt the balance in favour of the Sihanoukists, whose main opponent is the Cambodian People's Party of Premier Hun Sen.

Prince Ranariddh, president of the royalist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party, launched the Sihanoukist front on April 6, in a bid to forge a united strategy to fight the elections to be held from May 23-28.

Funcinpec—the French acronym for United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia—has been labelled a Sihanoukist party because it was headed by Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk until the Paris peace accord was signed in October 1991, after which Prince Ranariddh took over the rein.

Former premier Son Sann's Liberal Democratic Party is also believed to have joined the Sihanoukist front.

Observers say the Sihanoukists were crafted to help Funcinpec cobble together a majority in the 120-member constituent assembly and form the new government.

Dr Long, a 53-year-old lawyer-turned-politician, said that he is concerned about the close relationship between

Funcinpec and the communist Khmer Rouge guerillas, who have vowed to disrupt the elections and have killed personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac).

"Ranariddh sent his representative to meet me. I told him that I would only join if the communists were kept out of the alliance," said Dr Long, who is here on a personal visit. He leaves today.

He said his party was set up eight years ago in Paris, when he was practising law there. It has been registered with Untac, and claims a membership of 40,000.

Born a son of a farmer in the Cambodian province of Kompong Cham, Dr Long went to Europe in 1962, and returned to Cambodia seven months ago to prepare for the elections.

"My family were all killed by Pol Pot (Khmer Rouge leader)," he said. The Khmer Rouge killed over a million Cambodians during its rule in the mid-1970s.

According to Untac, Dr Long plans to spend about US$3 million (S$4.9 million) on his party's election campaign. He said that the money would come from his own savings. "I have sold my office in Geneva," he said.

Dr Long's political manifesto calls for the replacement of the present currency, the riel, with a Cambodian dollar, and the launching of a modernisation campaign to upgrade schools, agriculture, telecommunications and schools.

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister To Visit 25 Apr

OW2304111593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Bangkok, April 23 KYODO—Japan's Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said here Friday [23 April] that he will visit Phnom Penh on Sunday and Monday ahead of May's Cambodian general election.

Kakizawa told reporters he will meet with the head of the United Nations' peacekeeping mission and leaders of three of the four Cambodia rival factions, the exception being the leader of the Khmer Rouge. Tension has been mounting in Cambodia with general elections, set for May 23-28, drawing closer.

The Khmer Rouge mission left Phnom Penh earlier this month. The faction has refused to disarm or take part in the election, defying the Paris peace accord signed by all four factions in October 1991. The group has been suspected of killing U.N. peacekeepers, volunteers and ethnic Vietnamese over the past few months.

Kakizawa is currently in Bangkok to attend the 49th meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which started here Wednesday.

Chea Sim Meets With Sihanoukville Leaders, Cadres

BK2504092193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, held a working meeting with leading cadres from various offices and services in Sihanoukville on the afternoon of 23 April. Also present were Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh People's Committee; Yim Chhaili, health minister; General Sin Sen, National Security deputy minister; Min Khin, Cultural Affairs deputy minister, and other CPP officials.

On that occasion, Khim Bo, chairman of the Sihanoukville People's Committee presented a report on the political and security situation and the standpoint of the inhabitants in the city, especially the developments on the eve of the upcoming elections. He pointed out that the Khmer Rouge rebels continue to attack and infiltrate a number of remote areas in violation of the accord in order to disturb the election campaign. As for the parties of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Son Sann, they continue their collaboration with the Khmer Rouge under various guises. They are also conducting a misleading propaganda campaign by promising to do this or that in the name of Samdech Euv [prince father] for the purpose of wooing the people to vote for their parties. However, their maneuvers are denounced by our people who gradually turn to supporting the CPP, which have, for more than 14 years, shared weal and woe with and protected the people.

Chea Sim heartily praised the Sihanoukville leaders and cadres, who are the CPP's core forces, for their efforts in making the people understand the CPP's political program and correct leadership. The CPP chairman criticized some political parties for persistently protecting the Polpotist criminals and neglecting to introduce, in their political programs, measures to block the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime, which remains a serious danger to the nation and people. He added that the general public have more clearly understood the true nature of the FUNCINPEC party, an ally of the Khmer Rouge, which has been revealed by FUNCINPEC members rallying to our CPP.

Indonesia

Visiting Japanese Minister Warns on U.S. Trade Policy

OW3004100493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Jakarta, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Yoshiro Mori cautioned Asian countries Friday that the United States

could apply the same sanctions against them that it has threatened to apply against Japan if it fails to meet quantitative import targets.

In a meeting here with several Indonesian ministers in charge of economic policy, Mori said that the new U.S. administration has reiterated complaints over trade imbalances and has specified fields in which the U.S. might demand quantity targets, which Japan will definitely oppose, MITI officials said.

"If this approach is adopted toward Japan, there is a possibility it will also be adopted toward other Asian countries," Mori said in the meeting.

Mori said that other Asian countries should treat this as "their problem."

The quantitative approach was raised by U.S. President Bill Clinton at a summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa earlier this month in Washington and has aroused concerns among Japanese Government officials and the business community.

Mori, who arrived here Thursday, met with several key economic ministers, including Coordinating Minister for Trade and Industry Hartarto, Industry Minister Tunky Ariwibowo, Trade Minister Satrio Yudono, Mines and Energy Minister I.G. Sujana, and Agriculture Minister Syarifudin Baharsyah.

Hartarto, who led the Indonesian side, said that Indonesia and the other five countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also share concerns about the U.S. quantitative approach, the officials said.

During the meeting, however, Hartarto also raised the question of market access to Japan for Indonesian goods.

Hartarto told his Japanese counterpart that, excluding oil and gas, "Indonesia has a big trade deficit with Japan," to which Mori made no reply, the officials said.

Ariwibowo, meanwhile, said that more electronics and garment products made by Indonesian-Japanese joint ventures should be reexported to Japan.

He also urged Japanese automakers to invest more in the country in connection with a plan by Indonesia to produce small-size cars.

The officials also said the MITI will send a high-level delegation to Indonesia in the latter half of May to discuss the implementation of the green aid plan.

The aid was pledged by Mori's predecesor Kozo Watanabe who visited Indonesia in October last year.

Mori is due to leave for Singapore on Saturday after meeting President Suharto. He will later travel to Brunei.

Trade Minister Meets Australian Counterpart 29 Apr

BK2704084593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Australian charges that Indonesian exporters are resorting to dumping should be settled in a brotherly manner. Speaking after holding talks with Australian Trade Minister Peter Cook in Jakarta, Trade Minister Satrio Budiharjo Yudono said the Australian Government has frequently put Indonesia besides Thailand and Malaysia in a list of countries accused of dumping. In this connection, the two countries agreed to develop and take advantage of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] with a view to opening markets in the region for exporters from APEC member countries.

Philippines

Bomb Explosion Kills 3 in South; Muslims Suspected

HK2804102993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Dipolog, Philippines, April 28 (AFP)—Three women were killed and six other persons wounded when a parcel bomb believed planted by Muslim terrorists exploded near this southern city, police said Wednesday [28 April]. Police blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the explosion on Tuesday in the business district of Siocon town in Mindanao island about 750 kilometers (470 miles) south of Manila, but no suspects were arrested.

The explosion killed instantly two women who picked up the giftwrapped bomb, while a third succumbed shortly afterwards to injuries. Six bystanders were wounded, three of them seriously. Police said another bomb was defused by army sappers later at a bus terminal in the same town. The explosive, made out of gunpowder with a plastic explosive as a detonator, had been left in a bag at the terminal by an unidentified man.

The Siocon bombing came hours after a minor explosion hit the Manila domestic airport, wounding an employee. No group claimed responsibility for the Manila blast, and police had no immediate suspects. In the Siocon bombing, police said they suspected that a Muslim fundamentalist group led by a cleric called Abu-Sayyaf was responsible.

The government earlier warned that the group, based in Basilan island off Mindanao, was preparing to mount terrorist attacks to destabilize the southern Philippines, where Muslim-Christian conflict has periodically flared up since the 1970s.

Bombings Down Northern Mindanao Power Lines

HK3004102093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] It may take up to a week to restore Northern Mindanao's power supply, which was disrupted when major National Power Corporation [Napocor] towers were bombed yesterday.

Reports have indicated that Cagayan de Oro City and the provinces of Davao, Surigao del Norte, Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental will receive 30 megawatts of power, less than half their normal supply. Napocor officials interviewed by DXKS-FM said the power supply will be restored to normal, but it may take a week. Cagayan de Oro and nearby provinces currently receive their electricity from Polangi IV, the two power barges in Nasipit, the Aplaya diesel plant, and the Davao diesel plant.

Bombing, Power Outage Detailed

HK3004103093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 20 April 93

[Text] Davao, Philippines, April 20 (AFP)—Power has been partly restored in parts of Mindanao island, which was blacked out when Moslem rebels blew up a pylon, officials said Friday [30 April] as they sought military escorts for repair crews. The state-owned National Power Corp. said temporary repairs and substitute lines should result in the restoration of 85 to 90 percent of the power supply in the Mindanao grid by late Friday.

The explosion late Wednesday plunged at least 14 of the southern island's 22 provinces into darkness after the transmission line linking major hydroelectric plants to the grid was severed. Military officials blamed guerrillas of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for the attack, but no group has so far claimed responsibility. Still, National Power Corp. sought military escorts for crewmen working to fully repair the toppled tower.

Suspected MNLF guerrillas caused a similar blackout last year when three power pylons were toppled in the same area near Iligan city, about 750 kilometers (470 miles) south of Manila. The MNLF is a largely dormant group campaigning for a separate Moslem state in the southern Philippines, but maintains several thousand men at arms across Mindanao and nearby islands.

AFP To Request Funds for Aviation Fuel Supplies

HK2804125093 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] has moved to ask the government for an additional 544 million Philippine pesos to replenish its aviation fuel supply. Armed Forces Spokesman Rufo de Veyra said the aviation fuel supply will run out in June this year. De Veyra added that the AFP's fuel consumption has increased in the past months due to some government agencies' requests to use helicopters and airplanes. In view of this development, AFP Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia has ordered all military personnel to limit the use of vehicles except during emergency situations.

Reportage on President Ramos' Visit to PRC

WA3004113093

For PRC reportage on the visit to the PRC by President Fidel Ramos, see the Southeast Asia section of the 26 April and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

Thailand

Uthai Discusses Objectives of Visit to U.S.

BK3004074993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Interview with Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon by unidentified Thai News Agency correspondent in Washington on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Uthai] The three objectives of my current visit are: first, for the the visit to at least help strengthen trade relations and allow me to thank the U.S. trade representative [USTR] for his understanding of the positive progress made through Thailand's actions in the problem areas. This understanding led him to permit a second round of talks before making a decision on the issue of Thailand being on the list of countries facing trade retaliations. Second, I will continue the talks which the permanent secretary for commerce had with the U.S. side. I will be able to further clarify any points of contention that the U.S. side still has. The conclusion to be reached by the U.S. side will depend on the outcome of the negotiations. Third, I will have the opportunity to discuss the expansion of trade, at least on the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] issue, for which the United States will host a meeting this year. Mr. Kantor himself wanted to discuss the APEC issue because the United States will host the meeting. I think he would want to hear Thailand's position on this matter. These are the issues which will be discussed with the U.S. side. This will be where success or failure is determined.

I arrived just a few hours ago. I had a meeting with technical officials from the Department of Commerce and State Department. My talks with U.S. officials indicate that their attitude toward us is cause for encouragement.

[Correspondent] Do you think the outcome of your visit will be negative, as some people believe?

[Uthai] Frankly, it is not an issue of who loses what benefits. On the contrary, we come to the negotiations because we fear the prospect of Thailand suffering a great loss. For most Thai businessmen, the United States is a huge market. The origin of the problem is copyright violations, particularly tape copyrights. The counterfeit was widespread and the counterfeiters made a lot of money. They represent only a small segment of the

population, and the money they earn is illegitimate. This is where the problem lies. If we do not act to remedy the problem, the businessmen who earn their living honestly are punished. That is not worth it.

Uthai Lacks Government 'Mandate' To Sign U.S. MOU

BK3004031993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Apr 93 p B3

[Text] A source from Government House has revealed that although Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has gone to the United States to open another round of talks with the US trade officials, he has no mandate from the Thai Government to sign the memorandum of understanding [MOU].

The official said that Uthai is not likely to make a binding agreement with US trade officials on the reduction of copyright violations. No matter what the US proposes at the upcoming meeting, Uthai has to bring the issue back for further approval by the Cabinet.

Without the mandate to sign the MOU, Uthai is not likely to reach any breakthrough in the upcoming negotiation. The US trade representative has suggested to the Thai Government to have commitments on four areas concerning the protection of copyrights and amendments to the patent act relating to pharmaceutical products.

The US trade officials, in the previous round of talks in Washington late last month, urged the Thai officials to sign in the MOU to show the country's commitment to get rid of copyright violations within a specific timeframe. Thai officials have yet to comply with the US proposal.

Uthai is leading 12 Thai delegates to open "11th hour" talks with the US trade officials in Washington this week to avoid US retaliation. The US Trade Representative will announce today whether to list Thailand on its priority foreign country watchlist out of US concern over inadequate protection on intellectual property rights in Thailand.

Meanwhile, an official from the US Embassy said that Thai officials seemed to misinterpret the verbal message from the USTR Mickey Kantor, via Thai ambassador M.L. Phiraphong, that a three-month reprieve would be granted.

In fact, the USTR could delay a decision on trade action until July 31, if only Thailand could make commitments to resolve the four specific issues.

The official added that after realising the Thai officials misunderstood his message, Kantor sent a letter to Uthai. In it, he said, "If we are able to resolve the issues immediately, I am prepared to delay a decision on trade action until July 31, 1993."

Without the MOU, the source said that Thailand might consider having an exchange of notes to express its intention to get rid of piracy in the same way it has with the European Community. Or else, it will make a unilateral declaration to resolve the copyrights violations at home.

FUNCINPEC Official: SOC Unwilling To Transfer Power

BK3004035993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] A senior FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party official predicted yesterday that his pro-Sihanouk party might win the majority of votes in the upcoming May election in Cambodia.

Ung Huot, FUNCINPEC's election campaign director, said a survey conducted by the party in rural areas of the country show that it could get 64 per cent of the total votes cast.

He said the survey was conducted early this year before the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) outlawed poll taking.

In a discussion on the "Election in Cambodia" organized by Chulalongkon University's Institute of Asian Studies, the FUNCINPEC official said the Phnom Penh Government under the banner of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) would not accept FUNCINPEC winning a majority of votes.

He said his party has monitored all speeches by CCP leaders, including those of Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, and is certain that Phnom Penh would never transfer power to FUNCINPEC if it wins. There are 120 seats in the constituent assembly, which will draw up a new Constitution within three months of the elections.

FUNCINPEC would support Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodia's president, with authority similar to that held by a French president, he said.

If FUNCINPEC does not win the majority, Ung Huot said the party would be flexible enough to form a coalition government with other parties.

No KR in Coalition Government

BK3004034193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] The Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party yesterday maintained that Prince Norodom Sihanouk had never suggested including the Khmer Rouge in a government of national reconciliation after the elections, only to bring the group back into the Khmer community.

FUNCINPEC Campaign Director Ung Huot made the remark during a discussion—organised by Chulalongkon University's Institute of Asian Studies—on the elections due to take place in Cambodia from May 23-28.

FUNCINPEC could not "do so much" as to bring them into the government "but we don't want to leave them outside," he said.

The Khmer Rouge have refused to participate in the general elections saying that it will not be a free and fair poll because of the ethnic Vietnamese settlers and troops they say still remain in the country.

Mr Huot said the elections could not be 100 per cent free and fair, noting that this is not possible even in the United States. An election that turns out to be 70-80 per cent free and fair would be acceptable, he added.

The Khmer Rouge would have no one to defend their interests after the elections, he pointed out.

"They are not part of the elections, how can they be part of the coalition? It's a clear-cut answer," he said. "We cannot include them since they have no seat in the Parliament."

FUNCINPEC expects to win at least 64 per cent or at most 70-80 per cent of the votes. This would give the party enough majority to become the new government of Cambodia, he predicted.

According to three out of four surveys conducted earlier, the results showed that FUNCINPEC would win at least 60 percent of the votes, he pointed out. But "any prediction can be wrong," he conceded.

Mr Huot looked at four possible post-election scenarios. The first two explore possibilities deriving from a definite majority vote being won by the Cambodia People's Party (CPP) of Phnom Penh or FUNCINPEC. The third allows for a coalition that joins the two parties. The fourth scenario contemplates a coalition without the CPP.

The CPP is the party fielded by the State of Cambodia (SOC) which is the formal mantle of the Phnom Penh regime.

There would be absolute war if the CPP wins the elections because Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen has stressed, as part of his campaign line, that he would eliminate the Khmer Rouge, Mr Huot said.

Phnom Penh would start the fire against the Khmer Rouge and denounce them as "rebel guerrillas" when they fight back, he added.

If FUNCINPEC wins a majority vote and is in a position to form a government on its own, it would not adopt a violent policy towards ethnic Vietnamese because the party has learned from experience that violence is no solution to the problem he said.

Mr Huot denied Phnom Penh's charge that FUNCINPEC had co-operated with the Khmer Rouge in the killing of ethnic Vietnamese.

But if FUNCINPEC has to enter into a coalition with the CPP, all concerned will have to learn how to work under constraint, he said.

FUNCINPEC then would accept the ethnic Vietnamese and Cambodia would become a multi-racial society, he pointed out.

A coalition without the CPP would bring FUNCINPEC together with the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and other small parties, he said.

Chuan Expected To Face Pressure From Chatchai

BK2904041793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Apr 93 pp A1-A2

[Text] Persistent talks about a merger between two major opposition allies and a comeback by ex-prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan indicate tough time when Parliament reconvenes next month, observers say.

After a "sparring" period with the opposition in the previous parliamentary session, present political developments suggest the Chuan coalition can expect real pressure which may be aimed directly at making the prime minister dissolve Parliament.

A House dissolution could allow the Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana parties, in the event that they merge, to grab comfortably a majority control in Parliament in a snap election. Chat Thai now controls 77 MPs, only two short of the ruling Democrat Party, and Chat Phatthana has 60.

The two main opposition parties must have by now realized that their strategies of trying to drive a wedge among the government coalition partners so that either or both parties can join the government in a major Cabinet reshuffle are not working, according to opposition sources.

Despite serious problems and conflicts, the coalition parties still stick together after seven months. The Social Action Party has remained recalcitrant, but its possible pull-out would still leave the coalition with a wafer-thin majority control of Parliament.

"Initially there were thoughts that it would be easier for the opposition parties to become a government through a Cabinet reshuffle. That may no longer be the case and the costly strategy of making the prime minister dissolve the House may look increasingly attractive," said an opposition source who asked not to be named.

Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan has again floated the possibility of a Chat Thai-Chat Phatthana merger. The idea was given brief publicity several months ago

after senior members of both parties "joked" at a joint dinner about setting up a "Chat Thai Phatthana", Party.

"The government has run out of time as far as a Cabinet reshuffle is concerned," Praman said recently.

The Chat Thai leader could be courting Chat Phatthana only to reduce pressure within his own party, where a powerful faction led by Banhan Sinlapa-acha is allegedly trying to topple him. A merged party would definitely be led by Chat Phatthana leader and ex-Chat Thai leader Chatchai, who is more acceptable to members of both parties than Banhan.

Chatchai is now likely to take Praman's approach seriously, the same opposition source said.

"There are plenty of reasons why Chatchai should come back to lead Chat Thai after it merges with Chat Phatthana," he said. "He is a former leader of Chat Thai who is still widely accepted by the party's members.

Secondly, the merger would provide a very good chance to stage a political comeback."

Chatchai formed Chat Phatthana after leaving Chat Thai in the wake of the May crisis. Some Chat Thai members followed Chatchai to the new party,. Chat Phatthana then called itself a centrist altemative in a heavily-polarized political atmosphere.

It was thought then that the formation of Chat Phatthana was a tactical move that would finally end in the reunion of Chatchai with his former party. Chatchai on several occasions rejected such speculation, saying that if he still wanted to lead Chat Thai he would not have left the party in the first place.

But Chatchai has been noticeably quiet about a merger, although newspapers have reported moves by key Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana members to present him as an alternative premier.

Royal Decree Convenes Parliament Session From 1 May

BK2804134693 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] His royal signature, given on 23 April 1993, being the 48th year under his reign.

King Phumiphon Adunyadet has commanded that it be announced that whereas the House of Representatives had set 1 May 1993 as the beginning of second annual ordinary session of the parliament in accordance with Article 127 of the Constitution, empowered by Articles 129, 132, and 175 of the Constitution, he graciously issues a decree to convene the second annual ordinary session of the parliament of 1993 on 1 May 1993.

Countersigned by Chuan Likphai, prime minister.

Budget Expenditure Planned for Next Fiscal Year

BK2604093393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Council of Economic Ministers has fixed the budget expenditure for the 1994 fiscal year at 615,000 million baht, an increase of 9.8 percent from last year. The investment expenditure is fixed at 195.5761 billion baht, or an increase of 13.6 percent from last year. The annual budget expenditure is fixed at 384.345 billion baht, or an increase of 9.7 percent from last year. The increase in the annual budget expenditure will be mainly for spending on government personnel, national defense, and internal law and order. A budget of 3 billion baht is set aside for new projects to be initiated by the government under the regular budget expenditure.

Repayment of loans due in 1994 stands at 45.0788 billion baht. But the Finance Ministry planned to use about 10,000 million baht from the national reserves for loan repayment. Therefore, the budget for loan repayment in 1994 is set at only 35.0788 billion baht.

In 1994, revenue collected by the state is expected to amount to 655.510 billion baht, an increase of 14 percent from the revenue collected in the current fiscal year.

Government Asks Japan To Explain Tourists' Deportation

OW2904151893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1423 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Bangkok, April 29 KYODO—Thailand asked Japanese diplomats for an explanation Thursday of why a Thai tour group was not allowed to enter Japan last week, Thai Foreign Ministry officials said.

Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hiroaki Fujii was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in the wake of the tourist group's claim that its members were treated with extreme discourtesy last Thursday by Japanese immigration officials at Narita airport near Tokyo, the officials said. Meanwhile, the ministry offered to cooperate closely with the Japanese Embassy and immigration officials to help screen bona fide Thai visitors to Japan from ones who could become illegal workers in Japan in an effort to prevent further friction, said Prachayedavi Tavedikul [name as received], deputy permanent secretary of the ministry.

The group of 13 Thai tourists and their guide from a travel agency were refused entry to Japan when they arrived at Narita airport last Thursday and were deported without explanation the following morning. Members of the group said Japanese immigration officials treated them like criminals during their 16-hour stay in Japan. Each of the tourists was given only a box of rice and soy sauce to eat, and they were not allowed to contact the Thai embassy or their relatives in Thailand as they were kept under strict watch by security guards posted outside the doors to their hotel rooms, the group

said. The group says it was ordered to pay more than 500,000 yen to cover the cost of the stay.

On Wednesday [28 April], the group complained to the foreign ministry and the daily newspaper MATICHON published a front-page story about the incident. Several other dailies published the news Thursday. Prachayedavi said that many thais who traveled to Japan as tourists had overstayed their visas to work illegally, many as prostitutes. Japan, therefore, had to tighten measures to prevent suspected illegal entry by thais, he said. But Japan's methods may need to be modified to make them more efficient and avoid creating misunderstanding between the two countries, he said.

Tuna Company, Industry Prospects Viewed

BK2604030793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 93 p 23

[By Thawiwut Chulawachana]

[Text] The dream of Damri Khonanthakiat, the managing director of Unicord, one the world's largest canned tuna operations, to capture the US canned tuna market has levelled the world's oceans of packers and fishers, but Thailand may bear the final costs.

Thailand's canned tuna industry grew into a regional powerhouse in the early 1980s based on cheap labour and abundant catches. It graduated into a world powerhouse in the late 1980s due to Mr Damri's visionary purchase of Bumble Bee, a leading US tuna firm. Now it is set to enter a future with an unfamiliar set of industry fundamentals.

With an assured outlet in the US through its Bumble Bee purchase, Unicord drove up its production and drove down the price in the US, the world's largest canned tuna market—close to US$2 billion in 1992. In doing so, price pressure was felt throughout the industry, from Taiwan's fishing fleets to small family-run tuna canners in southern Thailand.

Few in Thailand survived, and Unicord, now one of Thailand's few large-scale and economically-viable tuna packing and distributing operations, believes financial backers will likely play a major role in determining the future of Thailand's and perhaps the world's canned tuna industry.

Telling one brand of canned tuna from another may or may not be possible. Those who have successfully differentiated in other commodity-like products relied heavily on high costs and continuous marketing campaigns. As a low-margin, non-addictive and low impulse-buying product, differentiation becomes a very expensive proposition.

"Canned tuna is a commodity-based industry. As it is, suppliers have little bargaining power. The EC's quotas and strong local suppliers' political clout, the US Food and Drug Administration and the Section 301 trade laws are how the industry is pushed around," said Mr Wichet Bunthuwong, senior executive vice president in charge of finance at Unicord. Production problems are also showing up.

"We (Thailand) still is the overall low-cost packer, but this is changing fast. Labour-cost-wise, we are no longer competitive in this region and South America is closer to the US. Leads in productivity and past investment in infrastructure and facilities will not last forever," he adds.

The industry also benefits from some positive developments. An independent market survey recently showed that American canned tuna consumption is still strong, but because of falling prices, Americans have stopped buying in bulk. This shift in buying habits has forced the firm's carrying costs to rise. When prices stabilise, old habits may return.

The industry doesn't appear to be in a position to continue cutting its prices. Chicken of the Seas, whose market share fell to 18 percent as Bumble Bee's jumped to 24 percent, is now in the hands of its financial backer, Prudential. StarKist, which has 37 percent of the market under the HJ Heinz group, has a higher cost structure.

HJ Heinz is making efforts to match Unicord's cost structure but canned tuna, which is only one of many food items the firm carries, has to compete for resources within the firm. HJ Heinz, being greatly exposed to the recent recession in the US, has only begun to aggressively challenge Unicord in cost. Due to this competition seeing the price rebound is in every supplier's interest.

Unicord's market share may also be a bankable asset. "When margins improve, the benefits of a larger market share will show up strongly. The firm can also leverage market share for margins," says Mr Wichet.

Apart from having 24 percent of the market, the firm has 37 percent of its white meat tuna segment. White meat tuna is a high- end product with high margin potential, accounting for about 22 percent of total US canned tuna sales. Light meat canned tuna accounts for most of the rest.

Commodities have always been the favourite of investors seeking fast rising or falling fortunes. Traditionally, commodities have meant an abundant supply and stable demand situation. Highly significant fluctuations seldom occur, and commodities retain value well during inflationary periods.

Financiers like the predictability of future earnings and the inflation hedge role that commodities have. High leverage positions, or low capital needed to back up borrowing, when investing in commodities are available.

Unicord enjoyed the same type of benefits when the firm bought Bumble Bee. "The trust our creditors have is reflected in the fact that the Bumble Bee purchase was done with a very high leverage of a one-to-nine ratio (one unit of assets for nine borrowed)," said Mr Wichet.

But when serious disruptions occur, a high leverage also means that those that are caught unprepared are often wiped out, and here is where investors have levied their strongest criticism at Unicord.

"Many are saying the management is at fault for destabilising the market intentionally and disregarding financial reality," he said.

He counters that the only way to grow in the commodity business is to capture the market and establish a type of monopoly. "Apart from working with competitors, which is difficult under the strong US anti-trust laws, there is only pricing," said Mr Wichet.

In fact, a combination of events may have put at risk Mr Damri's low price expansion plans. These started with environmental attacks on the industry in the US in the late 1980s and ended with the migration of a tuna species that supplies white meat to Unicord away from Unicord's traditional fishing grounds in 1992.

The financial realities Mr Wichet mentioned look dim. Bumble Bee has close to US$200 million in long-term and revolving debts. In 1992, the firm also lost close to US$40 million on sales of US$400 million.

Faced with creditor pressure, Unicord is undergoing a serious rethink. Creditors have demanded an end to price-cutting. Unicord is seeking to raise additional capital or joint venture partners. The right partner could not only improve Bumble Bee's financial position but also enhance the firm's competitive position.

"It will be hard work, but the notes will be serviced," said Mr Wichit. However, he stresses, he agrees with critics that a new management approach is needed at Unicord.

Bumble Bee's obligations will be with Unicord into the next century. During this time, Unicord's creditors will likely press the firm to keep margins healthy and costs competitive. With StarKist hot on the heels of Unicord, Thailand's viability to Unicord as a production base may fast be approaching an end.

Saying that Unicord is much hated today in Thailand's fishery processing and canning industry, Mr Wichit asks little from trade negotiations and industrial policy. "Unicord paid for its access," he said.

But similar to what confronts Unicord today, how to survive is the burning issue to what remains of Unicord's Thai competitors.

Vietnam

Deputy Premier Visits Spratly Archipelago

BK2904135193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] During the period of 6-15 April, a government delegation led by Comrade Tran Duc Luong, deputy prime minister, paid working visits to the Spratly archipelago, and the group of economic, technological, and service establishments on the Vietnam continental shelf of Ba Ria Vung Tau Province.

Also in the delegation were Nguyen Tan Trinh, minister of marine products; Bui Van Phu, deputy minister for communications and transportation; Nguyen Thanh Ho, deputy minister of finance; Ho Anh Dung, deputy head of party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department; Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Chon, deputy general chief of staff of the Army; Rear Admiral Mai Xuan Vinh, deputy commander of the Navy Corps; and many high ranking officials from various government ministries, departments, and the Army.

The delegation visited Naval Region C; the people's committee of the Spratley Island District; Da Tay Island; Spratly Island 4 which belongs to the Spratly Island District; as well as the economic, scientific, technological, and service establishments of Vien Trang, Phuc Nguyen, Tu Chinh, along the Vietnam continental shelf, of the economic, scientific, technological, and service establishment group of Ba Ria Vung Tau Province.

After listening to reports on the local socioeconomic and political situation and inquiring about the welfare of all local cadres, combatants, and civilian workers, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong wholeheartedly praised all the local people, military and civilian alike, on the islands, and the economic, scientific, technological, and service establishments for their achievements and efforts. The minister also briefed the people on current world affairs and the domestic socioeconomic changes since the party Central Committee's seventh plenum.

The minister stressed the importance of the Spratly archipelago and the continental shelf area in both economic and national defense areas. He also pointed out the tasks of building and developing the offshore economy of the military and the people on the Islands of Spratly, cadres, and civilian workers at the stations. He encouraged all cadres, combatants, and civilian workers to surpass all difficulties, closely combine economic and national defense tasks, and firmly protect the territorial sovereignty of the islands and continental shelf region. The minister also urged the people to develop investment in marine economy, to contribute their part to the socioeconomic development undertaking countrywide as well as to the stability and peace of the region and the world.

During the visit, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong also presented gifts and conveyed the prime minister's warmest inquiries about the welfare of all the military components and people of Naval Region C, the Spratly Island District of Khanh Hoa Province, and the group of economic, scientific, technological, and service establishments of Ba Ria Vung Tau Province.

Also on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Spratly archipelago Liberation Day, the Air Force's

entertainment group performed for the troops and people of the Spratly archipelago.

National Assembly Chairman Visits Heroes' Families

BK2904155393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] On 28 April, after the conclusion of the Fifth National People's Council Conference, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the party Central Committee's Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly, paid visits to families of fallen heroine Tran Thi Ly and fallen hero Nguyen Van Troi, and paid a working visit to the Nguyen Ai Quoc school of the 3d region. He was accompanied by Comrade Le Quoc Khanh, deputy secretary of Quang Nam-Danang party committee.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his companion offered incense in paying their respects to heroine Tran Thi Ly and hero Nguyen Van Troi. On behalf of the party, the state, and the National Assembly, Chairman Nong Duc Manh expressed the gratitude of the party, the state, and the people to the two heroes. He cordially inquired about the welfare of members of the two families and encouraged them to continue development of the revolutionary tradition. At the same time he reminded the local authority to give good care and encouragement to the people who had credits with the revolution.

Vo Van Kiet Receives International Seminar Delegates

BK2904160293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] On 28 April, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received the international guests who attended the Regional Culture and Development Seminar which was held by Vietnam's UNESCO Committee from 27-30 April.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed the international guests who came to attend the Culture and Development Seminar held in Hanoi for the first time. The prime minister also welcomed their fine sentiments and valuable experiences in culture that the attendees bring to Vietnamese people through this meaningful seminar.

Mrs (?Sofia Horsmajal), a doctor from the Indira Gandhi National Arts Center of India, and other guests presented to the prime minister their remarks on the land, the people, and the culture of Vietnam which are being preserved and developed in new conditions, with its special characteristics.

The doctor also highly valued the reports of the Vietnamese doctoral professors present at the seminar. She considered the reports as important contributions to the treasure of experiences in cultural preservation and development of the people in the region.

Premier Issues Decrees on Assault Youth Force

BK2904080793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] On 20 April, the prime minister issued a decision on the organization and operations of the Assault Youth Force in the new situation. The decision points out: The Assault Youth Force is a form of socioeconomic organization having its own specific characteristics. It serves as an instrument to implement the various state-initiated socioeconomic development programs and patterns its organization after different forms of business institutions specified by law. The force is entitled to a number of incentive policies to be determined by the Government. Assault youth units shall use the forms of business activities they engage in to formulate their own business management patterns as specified under current state regulations. At the same time, the force is dutybound to fulfill its financial obligations as specified by law.

The merger of Assault Youth units into appropriate business organizations and related re-registration procedures must comply with the following provisions:

—Regarding the merger of Assault Youth units into state-operated business organizations, registration must be completed in accordance with Decree No. 388-HDBT issued on 20 November 1991 by the Council of Ministers now the Government.

—Regarding those Assault Youth units which are not meant to be merged into state-operated business organizations, steps must be taken to merge them into other forms of business organizations based on practical conditions as specified under Decision No. 196-CT issued on 5 June 1992 by the chairman of the Council of Ministers now the prime minister.

Political Theorists Received in PRC 22 Apr

BK2404152693 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—A delegation of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought research headed by its director, Prof. Dang Xuan Ky, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has visited China at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The delegation was received on April 22 Li Tieying, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, who expressed the Chinese party and government's support for the cooperation and exchanges of experience between political theorists of the two countries aimed at promoting theoretical research in service of socialist construction in each country.

He also briefed the Vietnamese delegation of the fundamental view points in the theory of socialism with Chinese characters initiated by Deng Xiaoping and concretized by the 14th Congress of the CPC.

In Beijing, the delegation had working sessions with the Academy of Social Sciences, the CPC Document Research Bureau, the Commission for Restructuring Economy of the State Council and the Party School.

The hosts and guests informed each other of their work in the recent past, their current research of theoretical issues of socialist construction in each country, the renovation process in Vietnam and the open-door reform in China.

The Vietnamese delegation also visited Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Indochinese Refugee Meet Held in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2904155493 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 29—The steering committee for the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees met in Ho Chi Minh City recently under the auspicious of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Attending the conference were 65 delegates from 24 countries, the European Community (EC), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The Vietnamese delegation was led by Nguyen Dinh Bin, assistant to the Foreign Minister.

The conference reviewed the implementation of the comprehensive programme of actions (CPA) and noted with satisfaction that since early 1992 the illegal emigration has basically ended. Forty thousand Vietnamese, thirty-six thousand Cambodians and fifteen thousand Laotians have repatriated. However, the number of people remaining at the refugee camps is still considerable.

The participants agreed that further efforts and active measures should be taken for the early completion of CPA and the classification at the camps by mid 1994 at the latest, and that voluntary repatriation should be encouraged.

They highly appreciated the humanitarian policy and efforts of Vietnam in putting an end to the illegal emigration, in receiving the repatriates and in their reintegration.

The Vietnamese delegate affirmed Vietnam's readiness to cooperate with other countries, and international organizations to enhance legal departures under the ODP [Orderly Departure Program], AC, and voluntary repatriation programs. Vietnam is also ready to conduct bilateral talks with the countries concerned to receive those who are not accepted by any country for resettlement on the basis of the respect for human dignity, orderliness and international financing. The Vietnamese delegation expressed sincere thanks to international organizations and the countries concerned for their coordination with and assistance to Vietnam in effectively solving this humanitarian issue.

The conference unanimously agreed to convene the official meeting late this year this year to solve the remaining issues.

Development Strategy Presentation Planned for Donors

BK2404063193 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Vietnam is preparing for a donor conference in an effort to better mobilise foreign resources for its development and [word indistinct] integration in the international community.

At a briefing session here yesterday for diplomatic representatives from donor countries and international organisations, it was said that the conference, to take place in October or November, would serve as a forum for Vietnam to present its current economic situation, its development strategy up to the year 2000, its development priorities and its need for assistance.

Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commitee Vo Hong Phuc told the briefing that while preparing for the conference Vietnam had received techninal assistance provided by a UNDP financed project.

Assistance has also been given by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other organisations.

Mr. Roy D. Morey, United Nations resident coordinator and UNDP resident representative, said the Vietnamese Government had 'well-defined' socio-economic goals. 'We believe that the donor conference provides an excellent opportunity for the government to present its strategy for the realisation of these goals,' he told the briefing.

He noted that improvement in aid coordination mechanism were being implemented and that while playing an important role in coordinating development assistance, the government clearly recognised the important role of the private sector and non-government organisations in the development process.

Morey said it was important for the donor community to reconise that many of the current reforms in Vietnam were the result of grassroots initiative. 'Grassroots support for the reform process has been a major factor in the success of these reforms,' he said.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Cambodian Minister 19 Apr

BK2304065393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet cordially received and held talks with visiting Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and his entourage on 19 April.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet told the Cambodian delegation that the Vietnamese Government and people have closely monitored the situation in Cambodia and noted that the country is facing numerous difficulties caused by the Democratic Kampuchea faction, who rejected the serious implementation of the Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia while the United Nations has not fully carried out its function in the country.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet asserted Vietnam's stand in honoring and seriously implementing the Paris Peace Accord's provisions related to Vietnam. He expressed the hope that the general elections in Cambodia would be held according to schedule, and that a Cambodia of peace, independence, neutrality, nonalignment, and befriending all countries would be established soon.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong sincerely thanked the Vietnamese Government and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his entourage.

After briefing Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on some major events of the current situation in Cambodia, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong pointed out that the State of Cambodia's unswerving policies are to honor and seriously implement the Paris Peace Accord, strive to do its best to accelerate the peace process, promote national reconciliation, and develop friendly relations with all countries especially the neighboring nations.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong asserted that the Cambodian revolution is facing numerous difficulties caused by Democratic Kampuchea. The State of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, however, are determined to protect their revolutionary achievements, resolutely demand other Cambodian factions to seriously implement the Paris Peace Accord so that the general elections can be held in according to schedule and that long-lasting peace and national reconciliation in the country can be achieved.

Over 680,000 Hectares of Subsidiary Food Crops Planted

BK2404063593 Hanoi VNA in English 0616 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—By mid-April this year, farmers throughout the country had planted more than 682,000 hectares of subsidiary crops. Those include 235,680 hectares of maize, mostly of high-yielding hybrid, and nearly 290,000 hectares of sweet potatoes.

Earth preparation had been done for the planting of 143,480 hectares of maniocs, up by 3.5 percent compared with the same period last year.

Farmers in various localities had also planted 165,100 hectares of vegetables, soya beans and more than 184,850 hectares of short-term industrial crops.

Tran Duc Luong Addresses Agricultural Conference

BK2904130793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] A national conference on agriculture in rural areas opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi on the morning of 27 April. The conference is convened by the government with the aim of assessing the real state of agriculture in the rural areas of our country during the years of renovation; determining orientations, targets, and tasks for agricultural development in rural areas up to the year 2000; and preparing for the party Central Committee's fifth plenum on peasants and agriculture in the countryside.

Attending were people's committee chairmen and vice chairmen in charge of agriculture from 53 provinces and cities, representatives from many ministries and central-level sectors and various major businesses and leading production establishments, and many scientists working in the field of agriculture throughout the country. Also present was Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee.

Opening the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong summed up the great achievements recorded in the agricultural field during the process of renovating the country, and pointed out existing shortcomings in agricultural production in the countryside at present. He also affirmed the central task for comprehensive socio-economic development in rural areas in the next decade, which involves making one step of progress or basic change in the agricultural economic structure and rural economic structure in the direction of socialist-oriented development of goods production.

Together with this process, it is necessary to vigorously demonstrate and develop the production capacity and redistribute the work force in rural areas.

Comrade Tran Duc Luong pointed out important matters to which attention must be paid on the agricultural front in rural areas. These include continuing to seek a thorough understanding of and extensively implementing the policy of developing the multicomponent economy; ensuring sufficient economic and legal bases and a social environment for producers and businessmen to truly exercise their rights of mastery and equality, thus enabling them to carry out their work effectively; affirming an organic link between rural economic development and the process of industrialization and other service operations on the path to modernizing socioeconomic life in rural areas; paying attention to and scrupulously solving the problem of relations between economic development and social development, as well as the problem of discrimination between the rich and poor during the early stage of the renovation process; and continuing to change the political system in rural areas.

Comrade Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, presented a report summing up the development of agriculture, forestry, and fishery in rural areas. He also pointed out matters that should be intensively discussed at the conference.

On the same day, Comrade Ton Gia Nguyen, director of the General Land Management Department, presented a plan for contributing views to the draft of the revised law on land.

Comrade Nguyen Quang Hoa, minister of forestry; Comrade Nguyen Canh Dinh, minister of water conservancy; and Comrade Ta Duc Nghi, minister and head of the committee in charge of nationalities and mountainous regions, presented their suplementary reports on activities related to forestry, water conservancy, economic development in mountainous regions, and rural development in areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups. The conference will meet until 29 April.

Australia

Reportage on Japanese Premier's Visit

Keating, Miyazawa Meet

OW3004022993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0122 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 30 KYODO—Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating met Friday [30 April] to discuss security and politics in the Asia-Pacific region and the global economy, Japanese officials said.

The talks at the federal parliament building will also include cooperation in the Cambodian peace process, and how to defend the global free-trading system, the officials said.

The two prime ministers are likely to confirm their espousal of free trade and to call for further efforts for an early settlement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, the officials said.

They will also discuss the scheduled July 7-9 summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations in Tokyo, they said.

Expansion of ties between Australia and Japan as partners in the Asia-Pacific region is also on the agenda, the officials said.

Miyazawa has repeatedly vowed to place emphasis on Japanese diplomatic efforts to bolster ties with the Asia-Pacific region.

It is the first visit by a Japanese prime minister to Australia since a 1988 trip by Noboru Takeshita.

Miyazata will go to New Zealand for talks with Prime Minister James Bolger on Saturday [1 May].

Agree on GATT, Yeltsin, Cambodia

OW3004042693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0416 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 30 KYODO—Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating agreed Friday to aim at an early settlement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, Japanese officials said.

The two leaders also agree in their talks at the federal parliament building to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reform efforts, the officials said.

Miyazawa and Keating welcomed Yeltsin's victory in the April 25 national referendum as a sign that he had secured the people's trust, the officials said.

The two prime ministers also agreed to support the May 23-28 general elections in Cambodia, and expressed appreciation of the role of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), according to the officials.

During a two-hour meeting, Keating agreed with Miyazawa's view that setting numerical targets in bilateral trade sectors works against the interests of third parties, the officials said.

Such numerical targets were sought by the United States at a summit meeting between Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton earlier this month in Washington.

The two prime ministers also agreed to strengthen the role of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to expand dialogues in the region, the officials said.

Keating proposed discussing a framework for trade liberalization by a wise men's group prior to an APEC meeting in Seattle in November and Miyazawa agreed, they said.

The two leaders also agreed that Japan and Australia hold a ministerial meeting this autumn, the first in two and a half years.

Against Numerical Trade Targets

OW3004084393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his Australian counterpart Paul Keating agreed Friday [30 April] to oppose a U.S. proposal to set numerical targets in bilateral trade sectors, Japanese officials said.

During a two-hour meeting at the Federal Parliament building in Canberra, Miyazawa said the proposal to set numerical targets goes against the interests of third parties, and Keating agreed, the officials said.

Keating was quoted as saying it is necessary to solve trade issues within the context of an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The Australian prime minister also said it is imperative that free trade be strengthened.

The United States soght such numerical targets during a summit meeting between Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton in mid-April in Washington.

As for international trade issues, the two leaders expressed concern about recent moves toward regionalism and protectionism, they said.

The two prime ministers also agreed to strengthen the role of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to expand political dialogue in the region, the officials said.

Keating proposed that an eminent persons' group discuss a framework for trade liberalization prior to an APEC meetinnin Seattle in November, and Miyazawa agreed, the officials said.

Miyazawa told reporters after the meeting that it is important to have consultations through channels such as APEC to maintain the free trade system.

The two leaders welcomed an agreement, reached Thursday [29 April] by Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers and central bankers in Washington, to cooperate in stabilizing foreign exchange rates.

The Japanese prime minister also told reporters that volatility in currency exchange markets will end after the G-7 ministers and central bankers issued a communique at the end of their meeting.

The two leaders also agreed to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reform efforts, the officials said.

Miyazawa and Keating welcomed Yeltsin's victory in the April 25 national referendum as a sign that he has secured the people's trust, they said.

They also agreed to support the May 23 to 28 general elections in Cambodia, and expressed appreciation of the role of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the officials said.

On 'Nagging' Japan-U.S. Trade Problems

BK3004093993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 30 Apr 93

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Canberra, April 30 (AFP)—Next month's election in war-torn Cambodia and international trade were the focus of top level talks between the Japanese and Australian Governments here Friday.

Prime ministers Kiichi Miyazawa and Paul Keating discussed at length trade tensions between Japan and the United States, as well as a future increased role for the 15-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in the region.

Cambodia, and support by both countries for the forthcoming May elections, was discussed against a background of mutual concern for the deteriorating situation in the country.

Miyazawa told a subsequent news conference that Japan would not unilaterally withdraw its 700-strong contingent attached to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is under the civilian command of a Japanese.

He said it was a position shared by Keating in relation to Australia's 500 peacekeepers—an Australian commands the UNTAC military arm.

"At present the framework for peace set up in accordance with the Paris accord has not unravelled as yet," Miyazawa said in Japanese through an interpreter.

He said that although the Khmer Rouge had withdrawn their representatives from the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and the disarming of factions had not been completed, "the Khmer Rouge have stated recently they will respect the Paris accord."

"What is important is that the May elections are conducted in a fair and neutral manner in accordance with the Paris accord," he said.

Even though Japanese have suffered casualties in Cambodia, Miyazawa said, "Japan has no intention of withdrawing its personnel in the midst of this sort of problem."

Both leaders urged the international community to "hold its nerve" in the face of Khmer Rouge attacks in recent months on U.N. personnel and massacres of Vietnamese civilians, an Australian official said at a post-talks briefing.

The leaders also hoped there would be a role for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the interim Supreme National Council, in the post election government.

The official said Miyazawa and Keating agreed Cambodia was in "a highly sensitive state" at the moment.

On international trade issues, which the official said dominated more than half of the meeting, Miyazawa briefed Keating on the outcome of his recent meeting with U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Miyazawa told Keating that the size of the trade imbalance between the United States and Japan—between 43 billion and 49 billion U.S. dollars—"is a nagging question."

Keating said he was concerned about reports that Washington might try to impose managed trade with Japan to ensure access for its exports.

Miyazawa replied that it was clear Clinton was "very concerned" about the trade imbalance, that something needed to be done and it was hoped some sort of framework for a mutual adjustment process could be ready by the time the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised countries meets in Tokyo in July.

He said Japan was preparing to open a number of its markets by the G7 meeting in an attempt to restart the stalled Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, but clearly some markets, such as rice, still had many access problems to be worked out, such as the rescinding of food laws without his party's control of the upper house.

Keating was quoted as saying: "Rice is Japan's Achilles heel."

The Australian prime minister was keen to pursue a number of APEC initiatives, including a heads of government meeting and expanding the role of an eminent persons group to develop a framework for regional trade liberalisation, which secured Miyazawa's support.

Miyazawa said Clinton appeared to be receptive to a greater U.S. role in APEC as a way of raising his country's profile in Asia.

Asked at the news conference about elevating APEC's role to include a forum on regional security matters, Miyazawa doubted such a step could be achieved.

"Should it take on security matters it would take on a political view," he said, adding: "China, Taiwan and Hong Kong are all members and here we face a problem."

Russia was also discussed, with Miyazawa saying he hoped he could pursue with Russian President Boris Yeltsin a policy of "balanced expansion", with increasing economic involvement linked to progress on territorial issues, which have dogged the bilateral relationship since the end of World War II.

Canberra Not to 'Take Sides'

BK3004095393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Japan says it wants Australia's support for free trade versus managed trade but denies this involves lining up against the United States. The trade issue is said to be the main item in discussions between Japan's prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, and Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, which are taking place in Canberra today.

The chief spokesman for the Miyazawa visit, Sadaki Nomata, says the two prime ministers will discuss using APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Group, as the forum to keep the United States engaged in Asia.

[Begin recording] [Nomata] Both of us are concerned about possible trends for protectionism or managed trade, and our prime ministers know it very well. So, the important thing is to reaffirm this principle, and the question of what kind of language may be used in expressing support and so forth, I think, will be a secondary one.

[Correspondent] Is, though, support for free trade opposition to managed trade and merely another way of saying that Australia backs Japan against America?

[Nomata] No, not at all. Because we have no intention of ganging up with Australia. We need to manage our relationship with the United States well. So does Australia, and these two bilateral relationships with the United States need to be compatible. [end recording]

The foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says Australia will not be taking sides in any trade dispute between Japan and the United States.

[Begin Evans recording] I think it is matter of realizing that we have got our own interests to protect and the best way we can do that is by supporting the side that is advancing those interests, issue by issue. Now, the current issue as between the United States and Japan is about whether or not there will be a recurrence of this phenomenon of managed trade, that is to say, where sector by sector particular quantitative targets are identified and import or export volume numbers have to be satisfied. Now, that is manifestly incompatible with the kind of principles of free trade, global, and regional liberalization that we are pursuing and to the extent that the Japanese reject—and we will be supporting them, saying so quite explicitly. However, to the extent that there is a larger issue involved here about countries' genuine commitment to opening access, genuine commitment to removing quotas and tariff barriers and so on, and to the extent that Japan is dragging its heels on that front, then we are very much supporting the U.S. side—for example on the question of access to the rice market. [end recording]

Japan Seeks Continued U.S. 'Engagement'

BK3004104393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 30 Apr 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpts] Japan's prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, and his Australian counterpart, Paul Keating, have been meeting in Canberra today. [passage indistinct] Mr. Miyazawa is reported to be seeking Australian support for his opposition to President Clinton's policy of managed trade between the two countries.

The chief spokesman for the Miyazawa visit, Sadaki Nomata, says Prime Ministers Miyazawa and Keating will discuss using APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Group, as the forum to keep the United States engaged in Asia. Although Japan said it wants Australia's support for free trade versus managed trade, it denies this involves lining up against the United States. Graeme Dobell asked Mr. Nomata to what extent Mr. Miyazawa will be pressing Mr. Keating for Australian support in Tokyo's trade dispute with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Nomata] Firstly, I don't think it is quite correct to say that we are looking for support. I said this because it is very clear that both Australia and Japan firmly believe in the free trading system and both of us are concerned about possible trends for protectionism or managed trade, and our prime ministers know it very well. So, the important thing is to reaffirm this principle, and the question of what kind of language may be used in expressing support and so forth, I think will be a secondary one. [passage covered in referent item omitted]

[Dobell] What use, though, can Australia be to Japan in these dealings with the new administration in Washington?

[Nomata] We and Australia certainly have a shared interest in seeing to it that the United States remains actively engaged in the region politically, militarily, and economically, and the APEC does provide a very useful (?prospect) and a forum for that purpose; and the United States is hosting the APEC ministerial conference this coming November in Seattle. I think it does provide an important opportunity for the United States to be demonstrably engaged in the region, and we will be talking with the United States with that in mind.

[Dobell] Indeed, at their previous meeting the two prime ministers confirmed their fundamental importance of the United States staying engaged in Asia. If that engagement by America is coming under question, what does Japan see taking its place?

[Nomata] Firstly, we do not believe that the United States would actually withdraw from the region. There would be drawdown of U.S. forces. Rationalization, yes. That we can live with. But the important role of the United States as a stabilizing factor in the region must remain, and I think the Clinton administration has every intention of retaining its role as a stabilizing power.

[Dobell] In terms of that, though, there has been much discussion of a new stage in relationship between Japan and Australia moving on from the old bilateral focus to a much more regional focus. What role do you see Australia and Japan playing in this new vision of the Asia Pacific?

[Nomata) One good example is what we have been doing (?increasingly) with respect to Cambodia. In the Cambodian peace process in its early stages, both Australia and Japan were outsiders, but very much interested in staying involved, and each of us worked very hard to play its role, either as a catalyst or as a producer of ideas, and by so doing we have come to play further important roles in the process. We still play the important role. Australia has about 500 personnel in the UNTAC operation. We have 700 persons and we are working together to complete the Cambodian peace process.

This illustrates that Australia and Japan are capable of joining hands with the respect to regional issues which may also have global implications.

[Dobell] On Cambodia, though, under what conditions would Japan withdraw its troops, its election observers as well, before the end of the UN (?contract)?

[Nomata] Our focus and our highest priority now is to see that the elections take place in a neutral environment. We will continue our efforts to urge the Khmer Rouge to stay in the process; however, the important thing is that the elections take place and I think it is premature and also inappropriate for us to start talking about the conditions under which we might withdraw.
[end recording]

Evans: Muslim States Approached on Ties With Israel

TA3004114793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Over the past few months and at Israel's request, Australia has been exploring the possibility of four or five Asian Muslim states establishing relations with Israel. These efforts have so far been unfruitful, Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said in an interview with HA'ARETZ.

Evans said he is certain that when there is a breakthrough in the peace process, the Muslim states in Southeast Asia, led by Indonesia, will rush to establish ties with Israel. He said that these are relatively moderate Islamic states and that he has not found them to be entrenched in anti-Israeli positions.

Evans also said that in 1991-92, Australia was very instrumental in the efforts to launch a dialogue between Israel and India, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, China, and Korea. He said Israeli Foreign Ministry officials told his men that without Australia's assistance, relations with India and China would not have been established.

In the interview, conducted last week in Canberra, Evans said that over the past few months he has been involved in sharp disputes with several Arab states which had joined the Chemical Weapons Convention but refuse to ratify their signatures as long as Israel remains firm in its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.